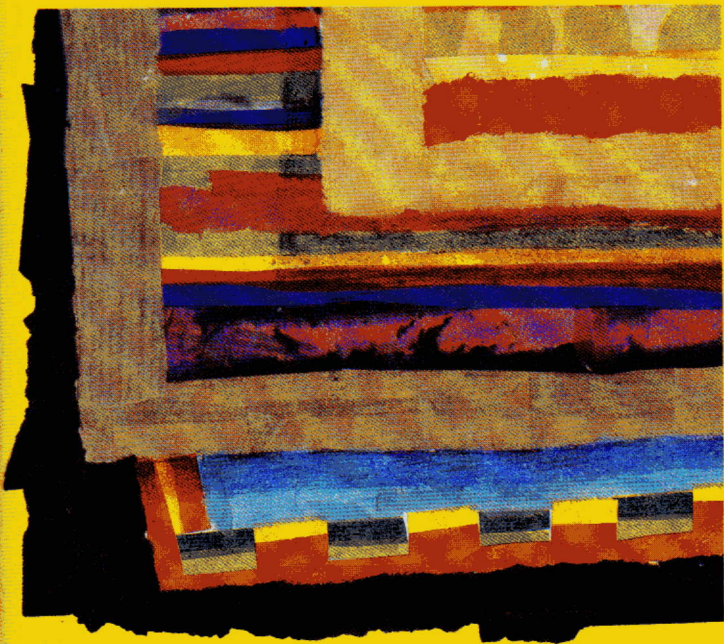


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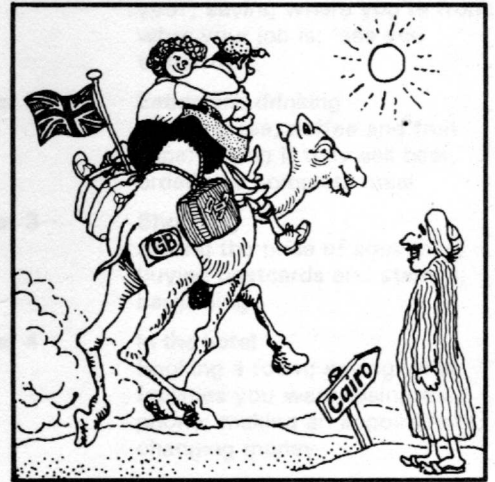
GET BY IN

# ARABIC



A QUICK BEGINNERS' COURSE FOR  
HOLIDAYMAKERS AND BUSINESS PEOPLE

# GET BY IN **ARABIC**



**A quick beginners' course for  
holidaymakers and businesspeople**

Course writers: Salah El-Ghobashy  
Principal Lecturer in Arabic,  
Polytechnic of Central London

Hilary Wise  
Lecturer in Linguistics,  
Queen Mary College,  
University of London

Producer: Alan Wilding

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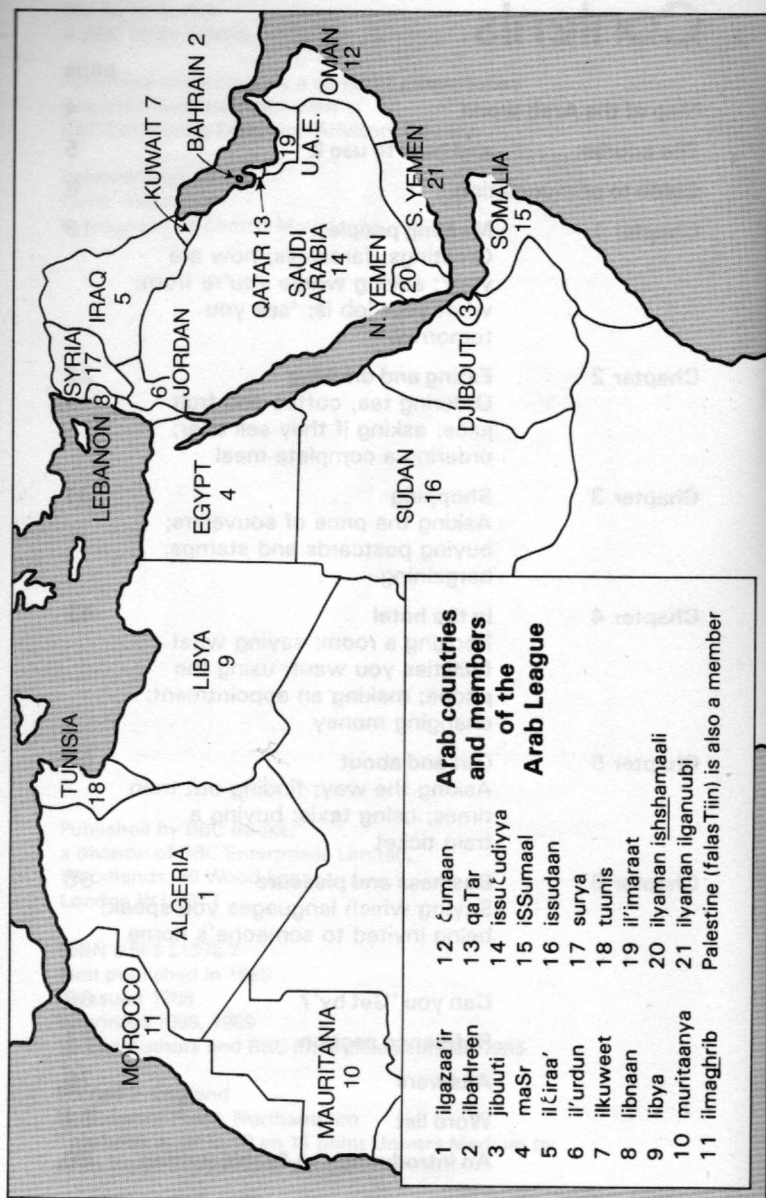
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# The course... and how to use it

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

## About Arabic

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

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

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

## What kind of Arabic?

There are basically two kinds of Arabic: literary and spoken. Literary Arabic is used as the written medium throughout the Arab world, and is spoken on the more formal occasions — in speeches, sermons, news broadcasts and so on. But for all everyday purposes — at home, in shops and offices — colloquial Arabic is used. The area of the Arab world is so vast (three times larger than the whole of Europe from Finland to Spain and from Ireland to Greece) that, not surprisingly, the language varies from country to country.



There are a number of reasons for choosing Egyptian Arabic. Geographically and historically Egypt lies at the heart of the Arab world. Its population (49 million) by far exceeds that of any other Arab country. Practically everyone in the Arab world is exposed, directly or indirectly, to Egyptian Arabic. Films, cassettes of popular songs and television soap operas are exported on a massive scale to other Arab countries. It is generally held to be the most prestigious spoken variety and whichever country you visit you will find people can understand and adapt to Egyptian Arabic.

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

### The programmes

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

### The book includes

- an introduction to the sounds of Arabic
- the key words and phrases for each programme
- the texts of the conversations in the order they appear in the programmes
- short explanations of the language
- extra useful vocabulary for each basic situation and background information about life in Arab countries

- exercises to test what you've learnt
- a reference section including language notes, the key to exercises, an introduction to the Arabic script for the really adventurous, and an Arabic-English word-list

### The two cassettes

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

### To make the most of the course

The way you use the course will depend on you and whether you're using the cassettes or the programmes or both. Here are some suggestions:

- If you have the cassettes, practise the key words given at the start of Cassette 1, which are printed on p12.
- *Before each programme*, look at the key words and phrases at the beginning of each chapter, and practise saying them aloud. Read the conversations aloud several times, with someone else if possible. Check the meaning of any words you don't know. Words appearing for the first time are given after the dialogues, otherwise you can check in the full word-list at the end of the book. Then read the explanations provided.

- *During each programme*, listen to the conversations *without looking at the book* and concentrate on the sounds of the language. When you're asked to repeat a word or phrase, try saying it aloud and confidently; this will help you to remember the expressions and to learn to say them with the proper stress. On the cassettes the pauses may seem a little short at first; if so, stop the tape.
- *After each programme*, read through the conversations aloud again. If you have the cassettes, you may find it useful to imitate the conversations phrase by phrase. Check again on the language explanations, then work through the exercises.
- *Making the most of the cassettes*: besides the dialogues and explanations expanding on the programmes, the cassettes contain additional conversations and exercises to reinforce what you've already learnt, and extend your vocabulary. Some of the exercises will draw on the additional vocabulary given at the end of each chapter. So if you make full use of the cassettes you can take your Arabic well beyond the stage of 'getting by'.

### Guide to pronunciation

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

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

### ● The vowels

There are three short vowels:

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

and five long ones:

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

### ● The consonants

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

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

**S, T, D, Z** represent 'heavy' or 'thick' versions of s, t, d, and z. They are pronounced with the muscles of the lips and the tongue very lax and loose, and can affect adjacent vowels, particularly aa, which is then pronounced more like the vowel in 'half'. Listen on the cassette to the difference in both the initial consonant and vowel in:

**saami** (*man's name*) and **Saafi** (pure)  
**taani** (second) and **Taalib** (student)

- kh** (underlined) like the final sound in Scottish 'loch', as in **khamsa** (five)
- gh** (underlined) like the French 'r' sound (like a very brief gargle!), as in **ghaali** (expensive)
- ' indicates a glottal stop, which you find a lot in Cockney English replacing a 't', as in 'bu'er' or 'Sco'land'. In Arabic it is a sound in its own right, and not an indication that something has been omitted. Eg **ma'aas** (size)
- q** as in **ilqaahira** (Cairo) is similar to a 'k' sound, but produced further back, in about the same place as **gh**. It has the same effect on adjacent vowels as the 'thick' consonants.
- H** represents a very aspirated 'h'. You can achieve it by pretending you have drunk something very hot, breathing out heavily over the back of your tongue. When you make this sound, you should be able to feel the friction at the back of your throat. Eg **Haaga** (thing)
- ع is an unfamiliar sound in English. It is somewhere between the glottal stop and the **gh** in **ghaali**, and is made with the whole of the tongue as far back as possible in the throat; as in **عala** (on)

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

**Sala** (prayer) **Salla** (he prayed)  
**ana** (I) **fanni** (artistic)

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

**kart** (a card) **ilkart** (the card)

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

t d n s z **sh** r T D S Z

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

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

In short words like **fi** (at, in), **wi** (and), **li** (to, for), the 'i' often disappears when another vowel precedes or follows:

**talaata w nuSS** (three and a half)  
**ilwalad w ilbint** (the boy and the girl)  
**f ilqaahira** (in Cairo)

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

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

**maZbuuT** **bariid**

Otherwise the last syllable but one normally carries the stress:

**mudarris** **mudarrisa**

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

**dáraga** **sálaTa**

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



While you should try to be as accurate as possible in pronunciation, Arabic speakers are not only used to hearing a wide variety of accents from within the Arab world, they are also genuinely delighted to find a foreigner making an effort to speak Arabic.

### Listen and repeat

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

#### Long vowels

haat miin yoom feen nuur

#### Thick consonants

saam Saam taab Taab daani Daani zaahir Zaahir

#### Other unfamiliar constants

r	raagil	bariid	kart
kh	khubz	khaalid	sukhna
gh	ghaali	baghdaad	ghani
q	qaasim	ilqaahira	qarya
k/q	kalb/qalb	kaam/qaam	
H	Haal	Hisaab	aHmad
h/H	haal/Haal	hadd/Hadd	
'	'ahwa	ba'shiish	la'
ġ	ġala	ġaawiz	saġiid
'/ġ	'amal/ġamal	ma'aas/maġaad	'aal/ġaal

#### Long consonants

sitta	iddiini	innuur
iTTaalib	issana	ishshanTa

#### Watch the stress

muhandis muhandisa	itfaDDal itfaDDali
Taalib Taaliba	kwayyis kwayyisa
Sughayyar Sughayyara	kallim kallimni

12 itnaashar

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# Meeting people

## Key expressions

ahlan	hallo, nice to meet you
ahlan wa sahan	
ahlan biik	reply (to a man)
ahlan biiki	reply (to a woman)
SabaaH ilkheer	good morning
SabaaH innuur	reply
misaa' ilkheer	good evening
misaa' innuur	reply
izzayyak?	how are you? (to a man)
izzayyik?	how are you? (to a woman)
ismak 'eeh?	what is your name? (to a man)
ismik 'eeh?	what is your name? (to a woman)
ismi shiriif	my name is shiriif
ana min landan	I am from London
ana muhandis	I am an engineer
maġa ssalaama	goodbye
ashuufak imta?	when will I see you? (to a man)
ashuufik imta?	when will I see you? (to a woman)

## Conversations

1 Hello! How are you?

Two girls meet ...

zeenab	aah! naahid! izzayyik?
naahid	ilHamdu lillaah, kwayyisa. w inti, izzayyik?
zeenab	ana kwayyisa, ilHamdu lillaah.

In the morning two boys meet ...

Taari'	heey! SabaaH ilkheer!
--------	-----------------------

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talattaashar 13

*shiriif*      SabaaH innuur ya Taari'! izzayyak?  
*Taari'*      ilHamdu lillaah, kwayyis. w  
 izzayyak inta?  
*shiriif*      ilHamdu lillaah, kwayyis.

In the evening ...

*Taari'*      heey! misaa' ilkheer.  
*muudi*      misaa' innuur.  
*Taari'*      izzayyak ya muudi?  
*muudi*      izzayyak inta?  
*Taari'*      ilHamdu lillaah, kwayyis, w inta?  
*muudi*      ilHamdu lillaah, kwayyis.



## 2 What's your name ...?

*mu'nis*      ahlan.  
*'inaas*      ahlan biik.  
*mu'nis*      inti ismik 'eeh?  
*'inaas*      ana ismi 'inaas. w inta?  
*mu'nis*      ismi mu'nis.

## 3 ...and where are you from?

*sanaa'*      ismak 'eeh?  
*shiriif*      ismi shiriif. w inti ismik 'eeh?  
*sanaa'*      ana ismi sanaa'.

*shiriif*      inti mineen, ya sanaa'?  
*sanaa'*      ana min hina, min maSr. w inta  
 mineen?  
*shiriif*      ana min buur saċiid.  
*sanaa'*      ahlan wa sahlan.  
*shiriif*      ahlan biiki.

Taari' meets people from around the Arab world.

*Taari'*      misaa' ilkheer.  
*Man*      misaa' innuur.  
*Taari'*      inta mineen min faDlak?  
*Man*      ana min issudaan, min ilkhartuum.  
*Man*      ...ana min iSSumaal.  
*Man*      ...ana min issuċudiyya.  
*Man*      ...ana min ilqaahira.  
*Man*      ...ana min 'aSwaan.  
*Man*      ...ana min nuuba.

## 4 What do you do ...?

*Man*      ana muhandis. w inta?  
*Man*      ana mudiir bank.  
*Woman*      ana mudarrisa. w inti?  
*Woman*      ana duktuura.  
*Man*      ana Taalib. w inta?  
*Man*      ana Taalib kamaan.

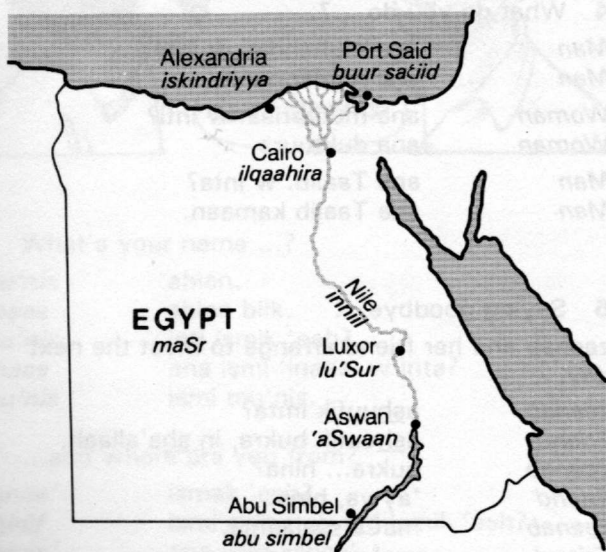
## 5 Saying goodbye ...

zeenab and her friend arrange to meet the next day.

*zeenab*      ashuufik imta?  
*Friend*      ashuufik bukra, in sha'allaah.  
*zeenab*      bukra... hina?  
*Friend*      'aywa, hina.  
*zeenab*      maċa ssalaama.  
*Friend*      maċa ssalaama.

## Vocabulary

ana <i>I</i>	buur saċiid <i>Port Said</i>
inta <i>you (m)</i>	'aSwaan <i>Aswan</i>
inti <i>you (f)</i>	nuuba <i>Nubia (S. Egypt)</i>
huwwa <i>he</i>	iSSumaal <i>Somalia</i>
hiyya <i>she</i>	issudaan <i>Sudan</i>
'aywa <i>yes</i>	issuċ udiyya <i>Saudi Arabia</i>
la' <i>no</i>	ilkhartuum <i>Khartoum</i>
wi <i>and</i>	ism <i>name</i>
kamaan <i>also</i>	ya <i>used before person's name (see p17)</i>
ilHamdu lillaah <i>fine</i>	muhandis <i>engineer</i>
kwayyis <i>fine, well</i>	mudiir bank <i>bank manager</i>
bi kheer <i>fine, well</i>	mudarrisa <i>teacher (f)</i>
'eeh? <i>what?</i>	duktuura <i>doctor (f)</i>
mineen? <i>where from?</i>	Taalib <i>student</i>
imta? <i>when?</i>	ashuufik <i>I'll see you (to a woman)</i>
min <i>from</i>	bukra <i>tomorrow</i>
hina <i>here</i>	in sha'allaah <i>God willing, I hope so</i>
maSr <i>Egypt, Cairo (see p19)</i>	



## Explanations

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

### ● Hello

**ahlan** or **ahlan wa sahan**

Reply:

**ahlan** or **ahlan biik** (to a man)

**ahlan biiki** (to a woman)

### ● Good morning

**SabaaH ilkheer** (*/lit morning of goodness*)

Reply:

**SabaaH ilkheer** or **SabaaH innuur** (*/lit morning of light*)

'Morning' lasts till lunchtime, which may be at two or three o'clock.

### ● Good evening

**misaa' ilkheer**

Reply:

**misaa' ilkheer** or **misaa' innuur**

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

### ● How are you?

**izzayyak?** (to a man)

**izzayyik?** (to a woman)

To be more emphatic, you can add the pronoun 'you' - **inta** to a man, **inti** to a woman:

**izzayyak inta?** **izzayyik inti?**

### ● **wi** means 'and'. Notice the 'i' disappears before another vowel: **w inta, izzayyak?**



● I'm fine ...

**kwayyis** (if you're a man)

**kwayyisa** (if you're a woman)

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

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

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

**izzayyak? ilHamdu lillaah**

● 'I' is **ana**.

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

● 'Name' is **ism**

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

'Your (m) name' is **ismak**.

'Your (f) name' is **ismik**.

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

(to a woman) **ismik** | **'eeh?**

(to a man) **ismak** | **'eeh?**

(/lit your name is what?)

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

**inta ismak 'eeh? ana ismi shiriif**

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

**inta mineen? huda mineen?**

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

**ana min landan. huda min maSr.**

● 'He' is **huwwa**. 'She' is **hiyya**.

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

**huwwa duktuur** he's a doctor

**hiyya duktuura** she's a doctor

**huwwa kwayyis** he's fine

**hiyya kwayyisa** she's fine

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

**mudarris, mudarrisa; muhandis, muhandisa**

● To say goodbye ...

**maċa ssalaama** (with peace). The reply is the same.

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

(to a woman) **ashuufik** | **imta?**

(to a man) **ashuufak** | **imta?**

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

**Additional vocabulary**

**briTanya** *Britain*

**amriika** *America*

**ingiltira** *England*

**iskotlanda** *Scotland*

**airlanda** *Ireland*

**weelz** *Wales*

**kánada** *Canada*

**ostralya** *Australia*

**ilhind** *India*

**bakistaan** *Pakistan*

**ilyabaan** *Japan*

**iSSiin** *China*

**rusya** *Russia*

**baraziil** *Brazil*

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

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

mudarris/mudarrisa	teacher
duktuur/duktuura	doctor
Taalib/Taaliba	student
muhandis/muhandisa	engineer
mudiir/mudiira	manager, director
SaHafi/SaHafiyya	journalist
khabiir/khabiira	expert, consultant
sikirteer/sikirteera	secretary
ɛaamil/ɛaamila	worker
sitt/ beet	housewife
raagil 'aɛ maal	businessman
issalaamu ɛaleekum	(lit Peace be upon you - at any time of day)
ɛaleekum issalaam	Reply
marHaba	Welcome
marHaba biik	Reply (to a man)
marHaba biiki	Reply (to a woman)
keef Haalak?	How are you? (to a man)
keef Haalik?	How are you? (to a woman)
tiSbaH ɛala kheer	Good night (to a man)
tiSbaHi ɛala kheer	Good night (to a woman)

### Exercises

- Pretend your name is John, and you are from England (**ingiltira**). Now answer the following questions:
  - inta mineen?
  - ismak 'eeh?
- Answer questions **a** and **b** again. This time you are Taari', from Cairo.
- What time of day would you greet people in the following way:
  - misaa' ilkheer
  - SabaaH ilkheer
  - ahlan wa sahlan

20 ɛishriin

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- Give appropriate replies to **3a, b, and c**.
- You are meeting shiriif for the first time.
  - Say hallo and ask him his name.
  - Now ask him where he's from.
- You are meeting naahid for the first time.
  - Say hallo and ask her her name.
  - Now ask her where she is from.
- You meet mu'nis, whom you already know.
  - Say 'Good morning, mu'nis'.
  - Ask him how he is.
  - Ask him when you'll see him.
  - When he suggests tomorrow, say 'I hope so'.



Mohamed Ali Mosque, Cairo

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waaHid wi ɛishriin 21

# 2 Food and drink

## Key expressions

fiih <u>ĉaSiir</u> ?	is there any juice?
mafi <u>ish</u> biira hina	there's no beer here
ĉandak   'eeh?	what have you (m) got?
ĉandik   'eeh?	what have you (f) got?
ilHisaab, min faDlak	the bill, please
ana   ĉaawiz	I (m) want
ĉawza	I (f) want
iddiini ...	give me ...
tishrab   'eeh?	what will you (m) drink?
tishrabi   'eeh?	what will you (f) drink?
shukran	thank you
ĉafwan; ilĉafw	not at all

## Conversations

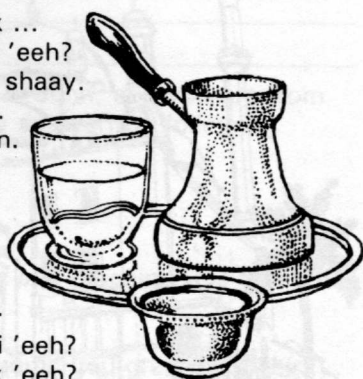
### 1 Something to drink ...

Waiter tishrab 'eeh?

Taari' ashrah shaay.

Waiter HaaDir.

Taari' shukran.



### 2 zeenab is in a cafe.

Waiter tishrabi 'eeh?

zeenab ĉandak 'eeh?

Waiter shaay walla 'ahwa walla Haaga sa'ĉa?

zeenab 'ahwa maZbuuT, min faDlak.

Waiter HaaDir.

22 itneen wi ĉishriin

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### 3 Two coffees, a tea and water pipe.

Waiter SabaaH ilkheer. ayyi khidma?

Taari' SabaaH innuur. iddiini itneen 'ahwa w waaHid shaay.

Waiter (shouting out to kitchen) itneen 'ahwa, waaHid shaay!

Cook HaaDir.

Taari' (calling after the waiter) wi shiisha, min faDlak!

### 4 Many cafes don't sell alcoholic drinks ...

Taari' ĉandak biira min faDlak?

Waiter mafiish biira hina, ya beeh.

Taari' shukran.

Waiter ilĉafw, ya beeh.

### 5 ..but some of them do.

Taari' ĉandak biira?

Waiter 'aywa, ĉandi biira.

Taari' iddiini talaata biira min faDlak.

Waiter HaaDir.

Taari' (later) ilHisaab, min faDlak.

Waiter 'aywa.

### 6 Asking what juices there are.

zeenab SabaaH ilkheer.

Waiter SabaaH innuur.

zeenab ĉandak ĉaSiir 'eeh, min faDlak?

Waiter fiih ĉaSiir burTu'aan, fiih ĉaSiir gawaafa, fiih ĉaSiir manga, fiih ĉaSiir farawla, fiih ĉaSiir lamuun.

zeenab ĉandak gepfruut?

Waiter la', ĉaSiir gepfruut mafiish.

zeenab waaHid gawaafa, min faDlak.

Waiter HaaDir.

### 7 Asking what sandwiches they have ...

zeenab SabaaH ilkheer.

Girl SabaaH innuur.

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talaata w ĉishriin 23



zeenab	Ġandik sandwits <u>haat</u> 'eeh, min faDlik?
Girl	Ġandi fuul wi TaĠmiyya w beeD wi kufta w kibda.
zeenab	Ġandik gibna?
Girl	la', maĠandiish gibna.
zeenab	waaHid TaĠmiyya min faDlik.
Girl	HaaDir.

## 8 ... and what soup they have.

Taari'	misaa' ilk <u>heer</u> .
Waiter	misaa' innuur.
Taari'	fiih <u>shurba</u> ?
Waiter	'aywa, y afandim. fiih <u>shurba</u> .
Taari'	<u>shurbit</u> 'eeh?
Waiter	fiih <u>shurbit</u> <u>kh</u> uDaar, <u>shurbit</u> baSal.
Taari'	iddiini <u>shurbit</u> baSal, min faDlak.
Waiter	HaaDir.

## 9 Ordering a complete meal.

kamaal	misaa' ilk <u>heer</u> .
Waiter	misaa' innuur, ahlan wa sahlan.
kamaal	<u>shukran</u> . ilminyu min faDlak.
Waiter	itfaDDal. itfaDDali ya madaam.
huda/kamaal	<u>shukran</u> .
huda	min faDlak, Ġawza waaHid samak <u>mash</u> wi, wi waaHid baTaaTis, wi waaHid sabaanikh.
kamaal	Ġaawiz waaHid ruzz wi waaHid <u>firaakh</u> wi waaHid bisilla, min faDlak.
Waiter	Haaga kamaan?
kamaal	'aywa, itneen mayya maĠdaniyya min faDlak.
Waiter	HaaDir.
Later	
kamaal	ilHisaab min faDlak.
Waiter	itfaDDal.
kamaal	itfaDDal ... da Ġalashaanak.
Waiter	<u>shukran</u> . maĠa ssalaama.

## Vocabulary

waaHid	one	mayya (maċaniyya)	
itneen	two	(mineral) water	
talaata	three	biira	beer
arba9a	four	'ahwa	coffee
khamsa	five	shaay	tea
burTu'aan	orange	shiisha	hubble bubble
gawaafa	guava	Haaga	thing, something
manga	mango	Haaga sa'Ċa	something cold
farawla	strawberry	maZbuuT	medium
lamuun	lemon	sweet	
grefruut	grapefruit	ashrab	I drink
minyu	menu	tishrab	you (m) drink
sandwitsh	sandwich	tishrabi	you (f) drink
shurba	soup	Ċandak?	do you (m)
samak	fish	have?	
firaakh	chicken	mafiish	there isn't/aren't
mashwi	grilled	maĊandiish	I haven't
ruzz	rice	ya beeh	.sir
khuDaar	vegetables	y afandim	sir
baTaaTis	potatoes	ya madaam	madam
bisilla	peas	... walla ...	... or ...
beeD	eggs	ayyi khidma	can I help
fuul	cooked beans	you?/don't mention it	
falaafil; taĊmiyya	deep-fried cakes of chick	(lit any service)	
	peas or beans	HaaDir	certainly, at once
kufta	meat balls	itfaDDal	here you (m) are
kibda	liver	itfaDDali	here you (f) are
gibna	cheese	da Ċalashaanak	that's for
baSal	onion	you (when tipping a	
ĊaSiir	juice	man)	

## Explanations

### ● 'Have'

is expressed not by a verb but by means of Ġand- (with), plus a personal ending, 'me', 'you' etc:

I have	Ġandi
you have	Ġandak (m)
	Ġandik (f)

eg **Ġandak 'eeh?** what have you (m) got?  
**Ġandak biira?** do you have (any) beer?

- The same endings can be added to **Ġalashaan** (for):  
da **Ġalashaanak** 'that's for you' (eg when giving a tip). To a woman: da **Ġalashaanik**

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

- 'Not'  
Both **fiih** and **Ġand-** are made negative by adding **ma.....sh**:  
**Ġandi** I have; **maĠandiish** I haven't  
**fiih** there is; **mafiish** there isn't  
**mafiish biira hina** there's no beer here

- 'I want' is:  
**ana Ġaawiz** (or **Ġaayiz**) (if you're a man)  
**ana Ġawza** (or **Ġayza**) (if you're a woman)  
**Ġaawiz** is an adjective and so takes the feminine -a ending:  
eg **hiyya Ġawza ĠaSiir** she wants (some) juice

- **ashrab** I drink  
**tishrab** you (m) drink  
**tishrabi** you (f) drink

When inviting someone to have a drink, say **tishrab 'eeh?** (to a man) or **tishrabi 'eeh?** (to a woman).

- You often add -i for the feminine:  
**itfaDDal, itfaDDali** (/t kindly accept...)  
This is used in any situation where you are offering something politely to somebody. It can

mean 'have a seat', 'please come in', 'have a drink', 'please join us' and so on.

- Noun + noun

As in English, two nouns can come together, one modifying the other: eg **ĠaSiir lamuun** (lemon juice), **mudiir bank** (bank manager). But notice the order is reversed in Arabic. If the first noun ends in the feminine -a, this ending changes to -it when another noun follows: **shurba** soup, but **shurbit baSal** onion soup  
**shurbit 'eeh?** what soup?

- More than one

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

- 'The'

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

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

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

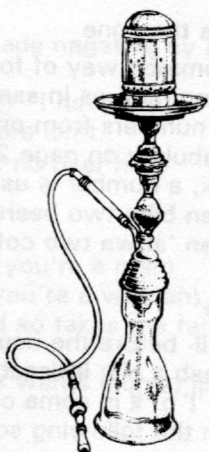
## Worth knowing

Besides eating in restaurants and hotels, you may want to eat at a snack bar, where you'll find sandwiches, often made with flat pitta-type bread (**khubz baladi**, or 'local bread') fried snacks like falaafil, kebab, and fresh fruit juice.

Fast food eating places are increasingly popular in the Middle East, and range from traditional roadside kiosks to the modern international food chains.

In some cake shops you can eat a delicious pastry on the spot with a glass of iced water, or take it with you.

Street cafes are for sipping tea, coffee and soft drinks at your leisure; in areas not much visited by tourists they tend to be patronised mainly by men. There the **shiisha** - the water pipe or 'hubble bubble' - is a common sight.



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

Ramadan is the month when Moslems fast during the hours of daylight, so it is generally polite not to

eat, drink or smoke in public places during these hours.

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

## Additional vocabulary

'akl food	faSulya butter beans
sukkar sugar	TamaaTim tomatoes
laban milk	gambari prawns, shrimps
[Haliib milk]	laHm meat *
malH salt	Hamaam pigeon
filfil pepper	*[dajaa] chicken
talġ ice	gazar carrots
khubz bread	shawirma spiced grilled meat
mezza hors d'oeuvres	nibiit wine
Hummus chick peas (often served as a creamy dip)	'izaaza bottle
TiHiina sesame seed paste	aHmar red
sálaTa khaDra mixed salad	abyaD white
makaroonna macaroni (or other pasta)	aiskriim ice-cream
bidingaan aubergines	mooz bananas
	tuffaaH apples
	mishmish apricots
	tiin figs

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

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

## Exercises

1 Ask a waiter politely (ie say 'please') for the following:

- a an orange juice
- b two beers
- c a sandwich



- d a medium sweet coffee
- e vegetable soup
- f the bill

2 What would change if it were a waitress?

3 Ask whether the following are available, using **fiih**:

- a coffee
- b mango juice
- c onion soup
- d rice
- e sandwiches

4 Ask for the same items using **ʕandak**.

5 Think of questions or comments which might have prompted the following replies:

- a 'aywa, ʕandi sandwitshaat gibna.
- b la', mafiish nibiit hina.
- c la', maʕandiish mayya maʕdaniyya.
- d HaaDir....itfaDDal ilHisaab.
- e ʕafwan.

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

# 3 Shopping

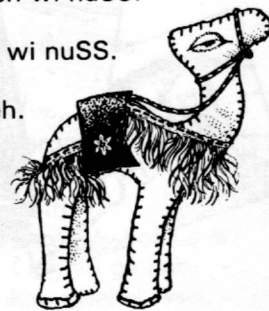
## Key expressions

bi kam?	how much?
ishshanTa di	this/that bag
ilgamal da	this/that camel
(bi) ʕishriin gineeh	(for) twenty pounds
mumkin	possible
mish mumkin	not possible
mumkin ashtiri?	can I buy?
mumkin ashuufha?	can I see it (f)?
di'ii'a waHda	one moment
(ana)   'aasif	(I'm)   sorry (m)
'asfa	sorry (f)
ʕandak Sanf 'aHsan?	have you got a better kind?
ʕandak ma'aas 'akbar?	have you got a bigger size?
ghaali 'awi	very expensive
bi balaash	free (lit for nothing)

## Conversations

1 Asking the price of a souvenir camel ...

Taari'	min faDlak, bi kam ilgamal da?
Shopkeeper	b itneen gineeh wi nuSS.
Taari'	bi kam?
Shopkeeper	itneen gineeh wi nuSS.
Taari'	w ilkibiir?
Shopkeeper	khamisa gineeh.
Taari'	shukran.
Shopkeeper	ilʕafw.



## 2 ... a bag ...

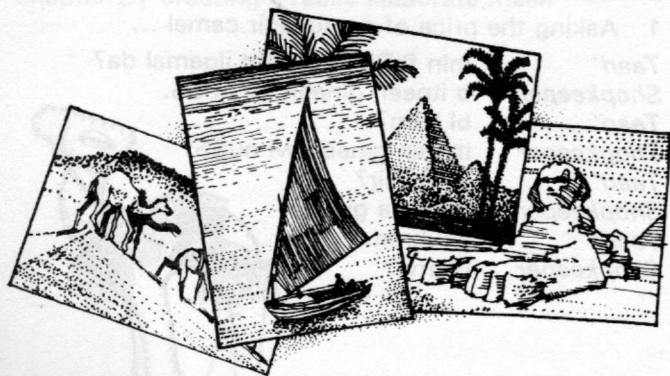
**Taari'** Sabaah ilkheer.  
**Shopkeeper** Sabaah innuur.  
**Taari'** bi kam ishshanTa di?  
**Shopkeeper** Ćishriin gineeh.  
**Taari'** wi di?  
**Shopkeeper** itnaashar gineeh.  
**Taari'** bi kam?  
**Shopkeeper** itnaashar gineeh.  
**Taari'** shukran.  
**Shopkeeper** Ćafwan.

## 3 ... and a galabiyya.

**Taari'** bi kam ilgallabiyya di?  
**Shopkeeper** sabĉa gineeh wi nuSS.  
**Taari'** w ilHamra di?  
**Shopkeeper** w ilHamra di, bi tamanya gineeh.  
**Taari'** shukran.  
**Shopkeeper** ayyi khidma.

## 4 zeenab wants some postcards.

**zeenab** Ćandak kart buSTaal, min faDlak?  
**Shopkeeper** 'aywa, Ćandi. itfaDDali.  
**zeenab** bi kam ilkart?  
**Shopkeeper** bi Ćashar 'uruush.



**zeenab** (she chooses three) talaata min faDlak.

**Shopkeeper** talatiin 'irsh, min faDlik.  
**zeenab** Ćandak Tawaabiĉ, min faDlak?  
**Shopkeeper** la', 'aasif, maĉandiish.  
**zeenab** shukran ... itfaDDal gineeh.  
**Shopkeeper** itfaDDali khamsiin, sittiin, sabĉiin.  
**zeenab** shukran.  
**Shopkeeper** maĉa ssalaama.  
**zeenab** maĉa ssalaama.

## 5 Can I buy stamps here?

**Taari'** mumkin ashtiri Tawaabiĉ hina?  
**Shopgirl** 'aywa, mumkin.  
**Taari'** iddiini talat Tawaabiĉ I iħgiltira, min faDlik.  
**Shopgirl** HaaDir.

## 6 A film for the camera.

**Taari'** mumkin ashtiri film I ilkamera di?  
**Shopgirl** mumkin ashuufha?  
**Taari'** (handing it over) itfaDDali.  
**Shopgirl** sitta w talatiin, walla arbaĉa w Ćishriin Suura?  
**Taari'** sitta w talatiin mulawwan.  
**Shopgirl** HaaDir. di'ii'a waHda. (she fetches a film) itfaDDal. talaata gineeh wi khamisa w sabĉiin 'irsh.  
**Taari'** itfaDDali.  
**Shopgirl** shukran.  
**Taari'** shukran. maĉa ssalaama.  
**Shopgirl** maĉa ssalaama.

## 7 Sometimes you'll have to bargain ...

**Customer** issalaamu Ćaleekum.  
**Shopkeeper** Ćaleekum issalaam.  
**Customer** min faDlak, bi kam ishshanTa di?  
**Shopkeeper** bi tamanya w Ćishriin gineeh.  
**Customer** la', mish mumkin. ģhalya 'awi.

**Shopkeeper** bi balaash ġalashaanik ...  
Ċawzaaha bi kam?  
**Customer** bi ġishriin gineeh.  
**Shopkeeper** la'! mumkin bi talaata w ġishriin.  
**Customer** Tayyib. itfaDDal.  
**Shopkeeper** shukran. maċa ssalaama.

**8** ... or ask for a better kind ...

**Customer** Ċandak Sanf 'aHsan?  
**Shopkeeper** 'aywa, Ċandi. bass ghaali.  
**Customer** Ċandak Sanf 'aHsan?  
**Shopkeeper** la'. da 'aHsan Sanf.

**9** ... or a larger size ...

**Customer** Ċandak ma'aas 'akbar?  
**Shopkeeper** Ċandi. ma'aas kam?  
**Customer** itneen w arbiċiin.

**10** ... or something cheaper.

**Customer** fiih Haaga 'arkhaS?  
**Shopgirl** la', 'asfa, mafiish.

## Vocabulary

bi <i>for</i> (in prices), <i>with</i>	Suura ( <i>pl</i> Suwar) <i>picture</i>
galabiyya ( <i>pl</i> -aat)	<u>gh</u> aali ( <i>f gh</i> alya) <i>expensive</i>
<i>galabiyya</i>	li <i>to, for</i>
gineeh <i>pound</i>	'awi <i>very, too</i>
'irsh ( <i>pl</i> 'uruush) <i>piastre</i>	ashtiri <i>I buy</i>
kart ( <i>pl</i> kuruut) buSTaal	bass <i>but, only</i>
<i>postcard</i>	'aHsan <i>better, best</i>
Taabiċ ( <i>pl</i> Tawaabiċ)	rikhiiS <i>cheap</i>
<i>stamp</i>	'arkhaS <i>cheaper, cheapest</i>
nuSS <i>half</i>	kibiir <i>big</i>
'aHmar ( <i>f</i> Hamra) <i>red</i>	'akbar <i>bigger, biggest</i>
kâmera <i>camera</i>	Sanf ( <i>pl</i> 'aSnaaf) <i>kind,</i>
film ( <i>pl</i> aflaam) <i>film</i>	<i>type</i>
mulawwan <i>coloured,</i>	ma'aas <i>size</i>
<i>in colour</i>	Tayyib ... <i>OK, well</i>
di'ii'a <i>minute, moment</i>	<i>now ...</i>

34 arbaċa w talatiin

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## Numbers

6	sitta ( <i>before plural noun</i> - sitt)		
7	sabċa ( <i>before plural noun</i> - sabaċ)		
8	tamanya ( <i>before plural noun</i> - taman)		
9	tisċa ( <i>before plural noun</i> - tisaċ)		
10	Ċáshara ( <i>before plural noun</i> - Ċashar)		
11	Hidaashar	16	sittaashar
12	itnaashar	17	sabaċ taashar
13	talattaashar	18	tamantaashar
14	arbaċtaashar	19	tisaċtaashar
15	khamastaashar		
20	ġishriin	50	khamsiin
30	talatiin	60	sittiin
40	arbiċiin	70	sabċiin
		80	tamaniin
		90	tisċiin
		100	miyya

NB As with 6-10 above, talaata becomes talat and arbaċa, arbaċ before a plural noun.

## Explanations

- To ask the price of an object:

bi kam	ilgallabiyya?	the galabiyya?
	ilgamal?	how much is the camel?
	ishshanTa?	the bag?

or: ilgallabiyya bi kam?

The answer will be:

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

- kam? alone is used before a noun to mean 'how many?' or 'how much?', referring to quantities. The noun is always *singular*:  
 kam kart? how many cards?  
 kam sandwitsh? how many sandwiches?  
 kam sukkar? how much sugar?
- Adjectives have to add an -a to agree with feminine pronouns:  
 ana/inta/huwwa kwayyis

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khamsa w talatiin 35

ana/inti/hiyya kwayyisa

They also agree with feminine nouns.

ilgamal (m) the camel  
ilgamal kibiir the camel is big  
ishshanTa (f) the bag  
ishshanTa kibiira the bag is big

Not all adjectives make the feminine like kwayyisa. We show other types like this:

'aHmar (f Hamra) red  
ghaali (f ghalya) expensive

- To say 'a big bag' or 'an expensive galabiyya':

shanTa kibiira  
gallabiyya ghalya

- To say 'the big bag' or 'the expensive galabiyya', add *il-* to the adjective as well as the noun but remember the rules given on p11:

ishshanTa ilkibiira  
ilgallabiyya ilghalya

- 'This' or 'that'

Make the noun definite (by putting *il-* first), then add *da* to a masculine, *di* to a feminine noun:

ilgamal da this/that camel  
ilgallabiyya di this/that galabiyya

If it's clear what you're talking about, *da* or *di* can be used alone. So can any adjective:

da bi kam? how much is that (m)?  
di ghalya! that (f) is expensive!  
w ilkibiir and the big one (m)?  
w ilHamra? and the red one (f)?

- To make a 'verbless' statement negative, add *mish* as follows:

ana min landan ana mish min landan  
huwwa hina huwwa mish hina  
da ghaali da mish ghaali

- One way of forming plurals is to add *-aat* (see p27):

sandwitsh sandwitshaat

Often nothing is added, but the pattern of vowels in the word is rearranged (a bit like English 'mouse, mice').

kart (a card) kuruut (cards)

'irsh (a piastre) 'uruush (piastres)

The pattern used for Taabiċ (a stamp) is Tawaabiċ.

There are about half a dozen major patterns (see Reference section p71-72). You can't necessarily predict the plural, so we give the main ones in the vocabulary lists like this:  
film (p/ aflaam)

- The numbers 1 - 5 were given on p25; 6 - 100 are given on p35.

waaHid (one) has the feminine form waHda. eg di'ii'a waHda one moment

To say '24', '35', etc, Arabic uses 'four and twenty', 'five and thirty' etc:

arbaċa w ċishriin: 24 khamisa w talatiin: 35

It's useful to divide the numbers into two sets: up to ten, and eleven upwards.

The numbers 2 - 10 are followed by a plural noun (*except* when ordering food and drink), and the final *-a* of the number is dropped:

talaata (on its own), but  
talat Tawaabiċ three stamps  
ċashar 'uruush ten piastres

Numbers from eleven upwards don't change and are followed by a *singular* noun:

talatiin 'irsh thirty piastres  
arbaċa w ċishriin Suura twenty-four pictures

- Basic units of length and weight are invariable:

mitr a metre  
khamisa mitr five metres



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

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

- To say 'a kilo of ...':  
**kiilu ilburTu'aan** a kilo of oranges  
**nuSS kiilu issamak** half a kilo of fish  
**khamisa kiilu ilbaTaaTis** five kilos of potatoes

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

- To say 'I buy' and 'I see':  
(ana) | **ashtiri** I buy  
| **ashuuf** I see  
Add **mumkin** (is it possible?) to ask 'can I ...?':  
**mumkin | ashtiri?** can I buy?  
| **ashuuf?** can I see?

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

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

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

and superlative of adjectives:

<b>kibiir</b> (big)	<b>'akbar</b> (bigger, biggest)
<b>rikhiis</b> (cheap)	<b>'arkhaS</b> (cheaper, cheapest)
<b>kitiir</b> (a lot)	<b>'aktar</b> (more, most) etc

**kwayyis** (good) has the special comparative **'aHsan** (better, best). So:

**iSSanf da kwayyis** this kind is good  
**iSSanf da 'aHsan** that kind is better

The comparative *follows* the noun:

**fiih Sanf 'aHsan?** is there a better kind?

The superlative *precedes* it:

**da 'aHsan Sanf** that's the best kind

Fortunately these comparatives don't change in the feminine!

### Additional vocabulary

fluus	money	gazma (pl gizam)	shoe
shibshib	slippers	kanaka	coffee pot
sandal (pl sanaadil)	sandal	sanduu'	box
'amiiS (pl 'umSaan)	shirt	'alam	pen, pencil
fustaan (pl fasatiin)	dress	Hilw	beautiful, fine
'umaash	material	sigaraa (pl sagaayir)	cigarette
'uTn	cotton	kibriit	matches
Hariir	silk	raTi	pound, half a kilo
gild	leather	Sughayyar	small
'ufTaam (pl 'afaTiin)	kaftan	'aSghar	smaller, smallest
banTaloos	trousers		

### Worth knowing

**Currencies** Besides the Egyptian gineeh, other currencies to be found in the Arab World are the riyaal, the dinaar, the liira and the dirham.



## Bargaining

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



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

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

## Exercises

1 What is the difference in meaning between these four sentences?

- a shanTa kibiira
- b ishshanTa ilkibiira
- c ishshanTa kibiira
- d ishshanTa di kibiira

40 arbiċiin

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2 Ask a shopkeeper 'Have you got..., please?':

- a any postcards
- b any stamps
- c a colour film
- d a large bag
- e a red galabiyya

3 Ask him if you can see the following:

- a a galabiyya
- b that camera
- c a larger size
- d a cheaper kind

4 Ask a shopkeeper the price of the following (checking your vocabulary from Chapter 2):

- a a kilo of oranges
- b half a kilo of lemons
- c two kilos of bananas
- d half a kilo of sugar

5 A shopkeeper gives the price of various items: tell him 'That is very expensive', using **da** or **di** as appropriate.

- a ilgallabiyya bi talatiin gineeh.
- b ilkart bi sittiin 'irsh.
- c mitr il'umaash bi khamisa gineeh.
- d ishshanTa bi itneen wi ċishriin gineeh.

6 Ask him if there is:

- a a bigger bag
- b a smaller dress
- c a cheaper camera
- d a better kind

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waaHid w arbiċiin 41

# 4 In the hotel

## Key expressions

Ġandak 'ooDa?	do you have a room?
fiih mayya sukhna?	is there hot water?
Ġandi Hagz	I've got a reservation
kam leela?	how many nights?
bi kam illeela?	how much a night?
30 gineeh f ilyoom	£30 a day
'ooDa nimra ...	room number ...
issaaċa kam?	what time is it?/at what time?
issaaċa sabċa	(it's) seven o'clock
mumkin adfaċ	
ilHisaab?	can I pay the bill?
mumkin aċmil tilifoon?	can I make a phone call?
mumkin aghayyar	can I change some
dolaraat?	dollars?
Ġala lyimiin/shshimaal	on the right/the left
imDi hina	sign here

## Conversations

1 Taari' is booking a hotel room.

Taari'	misaa' ilkhheer.
Clerk	misaa' innuur.
Taari'	Ġandak 'ooDa, min faDlak?
Clerk	di'ii'a waHda. ( <i>checks in register</i> ) 'aywa fiih. kam leela?
Taari'	leela waHda. fiih mayya sukhna?
Clerk	'aywa, wi fiih banyu wi tilifoon wi tilivizyoon f il'ooDa.
Taari'	bi kam il'ooDa?
Clerk	talatiin gineeh f ilyoom.
Taari'	iddiini 'ooDa, min faDlak.
Clerk	HaaDir.

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2 zeenab wants a room for two nights.

zeenab	Ġandak 'ooDa, min faDlak?
Clerk	di'ii'a waHda. ( <i>looks in register</i> ) kam leela?
zeenab	lelteen, min faDlak.
Clerk	'aywa fiih.
zeenab	Ġayza 'ooDa bi Hammaam.
Clerk	fiih, mawguud.
zeenab	bi kam?
Clerk	tamanya w arbiċiin gineeh.
zeenab	fiih maTċam hina?
Clerk	'aywa, fiih maTċam ( <i>pointing</i> ) hinaak.
zeenab	ilfiTaar issaaċa kam?
Clerk	min sabċa l Ġašhara.

3 If you already have a reservation ...

Taari'	ana Ġandi Hagz hina, min faDlak?
Clerk	ismak 'eeh?
Taari'	Taari' ilbaguuri.
Clerk	'aywa, maZbuuT.
Taari'	shukran.
Clerk	da ilmuftaaH. il'ooDa suttumiyya w waaHid. il'asanSiir 'uddaam Ġala lyimiin.
Taari'	shukran. ilfiTaar issaaċa kam?
Clerk	ilfiTaar min issaaċa sabċa l issaaċa Ġašhara, hinaak f ilmaTċam.
Taari'	shukran.
Clerk	ilċafw.

4 Asking for the bill.

Taari'	mumkin adfaċ ilHisaab, min faDlak?
Clerk	mumkin. di'ii'a waHda.
Taari'	shukran.

5 You may not always be lucky ...

Man	SabaaH ilkhheer.
Clerk	SabaaH innuur.

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talaata w arbiċiin 43

Man min faDlak, fiih 'ooDa faDya?  
 Clerk Ċandak Hagz?  
 Man la', maĊandiish.  
 Clerk 'aasif, il'utiil malyaan.

**6** And you may have to sign the register ...

Clerk imDi hina min faDlak. iktib ismak w  
 ism baladak.  
 Man bi kulli suruur.  
 Clerk itfaDDal ilmuftaaH. 'ooDa nimra  
 miteen wi talatiin, f iddoor ittaani.  
 Man shukran.

**7** Can I call London?

Man mumkin akallim landan min hina?  
 Clerk mumkin. ittilifoon hina Ċala  
 shshimaal.  
 Man shukran.

**8** Changing money.

Man mumkin aghayyar miyya w  
 khamsiin dolaar?  
 Clerk 'aywa, TabĊan. ilbasbuur, min  
 faDlak.  
 Man mumkin aghayyar shikaat siyaHiyya  
 kamaan?  
 Clerk 'aywa, dolaraat kamaan?  
 Man la', istirliini.

**9** Making a phone call.

Man mumkin aĊmil tilifoon min hina?  
 Clerk bi kulli suruur.  
 Man (dials) ... 'alo? ... 'aywa, ya  
 maHmuud! izzayyak inta? ...  
 ilHamdu lillaah ... ana fi 'utiil  
 shahriZaad, 'ooDa nimra miteen wi  
 talatiin...Tayyib, bukra in  
 sha'allaa h. tiSbaH Ċala kheer.

**Vocabulary**

'ooDa (pl 'owaD)	room	malyaan	full
leela (pl layaali)	night	iktib	write
sukhna	hot	imDi	sign
banyu	bath	balad	town, country
tilifoon	telephone	nimra	number
tilivizyoon	television	door	floor
yoom (pl 'ayyaam)	day	taani (f tanya)	second
Hammaam	bathroom	akallim	I speak to
mawguud	there is	aghayyar	I change
maTĊam (pl maTaaĊim)	restaurant	dolaar (pl dolaraat)	dollar
hinaak	there	TabĊan	of course
fiTaar	breakfast	basbuur	passport
saaĊa	hour, time	shiik (pl -aat)	siyaHiyya
Hagz	reservation	travellers	cheque
maZbuut	right, exact	istirliini	sterling
muftaaH	key	aĊmil tilifoon	I make a
'asanSiir	lift	phone call	
'uddaam	opposite, in front	bi kulli suruur	certainly (lit
Ċala	on	with all pleasure)	
yimiin	right	tiSbaH(i) Ċala	kheer good
shimaal	left	night	
adfaĊ	I pay	siriir	bed
faaDi (f faDya)	empty,	'aakul	I eat
	free	dushsh	shower

**Explanations**

- To ask for a room:  
 Ċandak 'ooDa?

To specify:

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

To say you've got a reservation:  
 (ana) Ċandi Hagz

You'll be told the price per day:

Ċishriin	gineeh f ilyoom
talatiin	



● One ...

**waaHid (m) waHda (f)**

eg **yoom waaHid leela waHda**

● Two ...

**itneen gineeh £2**

**itneen biira** two beers

But most nouns have a special 'dual' form in which **-een** is added to the singular:

**yoom day yomeen** two days

**siriir bed sirireen** two beds

If the noun is feminine, drop the **-a** and add **-teen**:

**leela night lelteen** two nights

**di'ii'a moment di'i'teen** two moments

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

● Hundreds

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

● To ask the time:

**issaa'a kam?** (/it the hour how much?) has two meanings: 'what time is it?' and 'at what time?'

To ask 'what time is ...?':

**ilfiTaar issaa'a kam?** what time is breakfast?

● To tell the time:

<b>issaa'a</b>	<b>talaata</b>	<b>(it's)</b>	<b>three o'clock</b>
	<b>khamisa</b>		<b>five o'clock</b>
	<b>sitta w nuSS</b>		<b>half past six</b>

To say 'from ... to ...':

**min issaa'a sab'a l issaa'a cashara**

46 **sitta w arbi'iiin**

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● Directions

**(ish)shimaal** (the) left

**(il)yimiin** (the) right

They often come after **ala** ('on'):

<b>ala</b>	<b>lyimiin</b>
	<b>shshimaal</b>

● 'uddaam (in front, opposite)

It can be used on its own or take one of the pronouns:

**'uddaamak** in front of you (m)

**'uddaamik** in front of you (f)

**'uddaamha** in front of her

● Verbs

More examples of 'I ...'

<b>(ana)</b>	<b>adfa'a</b>	pay
	<b>aakul</b>	eat
	<b>aghayyar</b>	change
	<b>a'a mil</b>	make, do
	<b>akallim</b>	call (/it speak to)

The above are all in the first person (I) and so all begin with **a-**. To make the second person (you), change the **a-** to **ti-**:

**tishrab 'eeh?** what are you drinking?

**mumkin | tidfa'a?** can you pay?

**| tighayyar?** can you change?

NB **mumkin taakul hina** you can eat here

These are used when talking to a man. If talking to a woman, add a final **-i**:

**tishrabi 'eeh?**

**mumkin | tidfa'i?**  
**| tighayyari?**

NB **mumkin takli hina**

To tell someone to do something (the 'imperative'), the initial **t-** is dropped:

**iktib (ismak)** write (your name) (to a man)

**iktibi (ismik)** write (your name) (to a woman)

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sab'a w arbi'iiin 47

**iddiini** (give me) is another imperative of this kind.

### ● Polite phrases

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

In conversation 9, Taari' says **tiSbaH Ćala kheer** (good night), which shows he's speaking to a man. To a woman, he'd have said **tiSbaHi Ćala kheer**. It literally means 'may the morning find you well'.

### Additional vocabulary

[ghurfa room]	shaghghaal working
[gawaaz issafar passport]	mish shaghghaal not working
fuuta (p/ fuwaT) towel	b ilfiTaar including breakfast
niDiif clean	il'ooDa b ilfiTaar bed and breakfast
wisikh dirty	istiqbaal reception
haadi quiet	doorit mayya lavatory
dawsha noise	twalett lavatory
ĆaTlaan out of order, not working	takyiif hawa air conditioning
ittilifoon ĆaTlaan the phone's not working	khidma service
	Ćashara f ilmiyya 10%

### Worth knowing

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

### Exercises

1 You are booking into a hotel; check whether there is:

- a a bathroom
- b a shower
- c a telephone
- d hot water

2 Now complain that the first three are not working (**ĆaTlaan**) and there's no hot water!

3 Ask whether you can:

- a pay the bill
- b make a phone call
- c change some dollars

4 You want a single room for two nights; fill in your part of the conversation that follows, remembering to ask how much it costs!

Clerk	SabaaH ilkheer.
You	...
Clerk	ayyi khidma?
You	...
Clerk	'aywa, fiih. bi siriir waaHid walla bi sirireen?
You	...
Clerk	kam leela?
You	...
Clerk	fiih 'ooDa Hilwa f iddoor ittaani. itfaDDal ilmuftaaH.
You	...
Clerk	Ćishriin gineeh bass.

# 5 Out and about

## Key expressions

il'utiil feen?	where is the hotel?
feen il'utiil?	
'awwil   <u>shaari</u> ĉ	first   street
taani	second
'urayyib (min hina)	near (here)
bi9iid (min hina)	far (from here)
laazim taakhud taksi	you (m) must take a taxi
ĉaawiz aruuH ilharam	I want to go to the pyramids
shuwayya	a little, quite
kitiir	a lot
tazkara l iskindriyya	a ticket to Alexandria
dáraga   'uula	first   class
tanya	second
raayiH/raayiH gayy	single/return
raSiif nimra kam?	which platform?
feen 'a'rab	where's the nearest
'agzakhaana?	chemist's?
imshi ĉala Tool	go straight on
da 'aTr iskindriyya?	is this the Alexandria train?

## Conversations

### 1 Asking for a free map of the town.

Taari'	min faDlak?
Clerk	'aywa?
Taari'	ĉandak khariiTa l ilqaahira?
Clerk	'aywa.
Taari'	mumkin aakhud waHda?
Clerk	itfaDDal.
Taari'	shukran.
Clerk	ĉafwan.

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### 2 Asking your way to Liberation Square.

Taari'	min faDlik, feen midaan ittaHriir?
Passerby	'awwil <u>shaari</u> ĉ ... (correcting herself) la', taani <u>shaari</u> ĉ ĉala lyimiin.
Taari'	shukran.
Passerby	ĉafwan.

### 3 Is Khan El Khalili nearby?

Taari'	min faDlak, <u>khan</u> ilkhalili 'urayyib min hina?
Passerby	la', biĉiid <u>shuwayya</u> . laazim taakhud taksi.
Taari'	shukran.
Passerby	ĉafwan.

### 4 Where is the nearest chemist's?

Tourist	min faDlak, feen 'a'rab 'agzakhaana?
Passerby	'awwil <u>shaari</u> ĉ ĉala <u>shshimaal</u> .
Tourist	shukran.

### 5 Calling a taxi ...

mu'nis	taksi! taksi! ĉaawiz aruuH ilharam.
Driver	bi khamisa gineeh.
mu'nis	khamisa gineeh? kitiir! arbaĉa?
Driver	mumkin. itfaDDal.
mu'nis	shukran

### 6 ... and directing the taxi driver.

Driver	feen il'utiil?
mu'nis	imshi ĉala Tool ...
Driver	(drives on) wi dilwa'ti?
mu'nis	shimaal hina ...
Driver	shimaal feen? shimaal hina?
mu'nis	'aywa. wi baĉdeen taani <u>shaari</u> ĉ ĉala lyimin.
Driver	hina?
mu'nis	'aywa. shukran.
Driver	ilĉafw.

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waaHid wi khamsiin 51

## 7 Finding out about planes to Aswan.

**Taari'** misaa' ilkheer.  
**Assistant** misaa' innuur.  
**Taari'** ana ċaayiz aruuH 'aSwaan.  
**Assistant** imta?  
**Taari'** baċd bukra.  
**Assistant** baċd bukra? litneen.  
**Taari'** 'aywa.  
**Assistant** di'ii'a waHda. (*looking in timetable*)  
 fiih Tayyaara issaaċa tamanya wi  
 khamisa w arbiċiin iSSubH, wi  
 Tayyaara issaa9a itnaa<sup>sh</sup>ar wi  
 nuSS iDDuhr.  
**Taari'** shukran. bi kam ittazkara?  
**Assistant** raayiH walla raayiH gayy?  
**Taari'** raayiH gayy.  
**Assistant** raayiH gayy? sabċa w arbiċiin  
 gineeh.

## 8 Buying a train ticket.

**Taari'** tazkara l iskindriyya min faDlak.  
**Clerk** dāraga 'uula walla dāraga tanya?  
**Taari'** dāraga 'uula.  
**Clerk** dāraga 'uula tamanha khamisa  
 gineeh.  
**Taari'** (*giving him the money*) itfaDDal.  
 raSiif nimra kam?  
**Clerk** raSiif nimra arbaċa.  
**Taari'** shukran.  
**Clerk** ċafwan.

## 9 Checking that it's the right train.

**Taari'** min faDlak?  
**Passerby** 'aywa?  
**Taari'** da 'aTr iskindriyya?  
**Passerby** 'aywa. da 'aTr iskindriyya.  
**Taari'** shukran.  
**Passerby** ċafwan.

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## 10 zeenab is going to the Egyptian museum in Cairo.

**zeenab** min faDlak!  
**Passerby** 'aywa?  
**zeenab** ilmatHaf feen?  
**Passerby** imshi ċala Tool, wi taani shaariċ  
 ċala lyimiin.  
**zeenab** shukran.  
**Passerby** ċafwan.  
 Later  
**zeenab** bi kam ittazkara, min faDlak?  
**Attendant** tazkara bi talaata gineeh.  
**zeenab** iddiini tazkarteen.  
**Attendant** itneen ... sitta gineeh.

## Vocabulary

khariiTa (l ilqaahira)	haram <i>pyramids</i>
map (of Cairo)	ċala Tool <i>straight on</i>
midaan <i>square</i>	dilwa'ti <i>now</i>
midaan ittaHriir <i>Liberation</i>	baċdeen <i>later, then</i>
<i>Square</i>	baċd bukra <i>the day after</i>
'awwil (f 'uula) <i>first</i>	<i>tomorrow</i>
shaariċ (pl shawaariċ)	litneen <i>Monday</i>
<i>street</i>	Tayyaara (pl Tayyaraat)
khan ilkhalili <i>Khan El</i>	<i>aeroplane</i>
Khalili ( <i>bazaar area of</i>	SubH <i>morning</i>
<i>Cairo</i> )	Duhr <i>noon</i>
laazim ( <i>it is</i> ) <i>necessary</i>	baċd iDDuhr <i>afternoon</i>
taksi (pl taksiyyaat) <i>taxi</i>	tazkara (pl tazaakir) <i>ticket</i>
'a'rab <i>nearest</i>	dāraga <i>class</i>
'agzakhaana <i>chemist's</i>	taman <i>price</i>
aruuH <i>I go</i>	raSiif <i>platform</i>
	'aTr <i>train</i>

## Explanations

- To ask 'where is ...?':  
 il'utiil **feen?** or  
**feen** il'utiil?

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talaata w khamsiin 53



● Near or far

'urayyib (min)	near (to)
bi'iid (min)	far (from)
da 'urayyib min hina?	is that near here?
da bi'iid min il'utiil?	is that far from the hotel?

● Nearer and nearest

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

● First and second

	m	f
1st	'awwil	'uula
2nd	taani	tanya

You'll hear the masculine versions when you're  
 being told which street to take:  
 'awwil | shaari' | 'ala lyimiin 1st on the right  
 taani | 'ala shshimaal 2nd on the left  
 and the feminine versions when you're asked if  
 you want to travel 1st or 2nd class (notice that  
 here they follow the noun):  
 dārāga 'uula walla dārāga tanya?

● The 'I' and 'you' forms of 'go' and 'take' are:

aakhud	I take	aruuh	I go
taakhud	you (m) take	tiruuH	you (m) go
takhdi	you (f) take	tiruuHi	you (f) go

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

The imperatives of these are:

khud! (to a man)	take!
khudi! (to a woman)	

ruuH! (to a man) go!  
 ruuHi! (to a woman)

The other verb 'go' which you'll hear in street  
 directions (meaning 'go on') is:

amshi	I go
timshi	you (m and f) go
imshi!	go! (m and f)
imshi 'ala Tool!	go straight on!

● To say 'must':

use **laazim** (it is necessary), which is invariable  
 and works like **mumkin** (see p38):

laazim taakhud taksi	you must take a taxi
laazim tiruuH il'utiil	you must go to the hotel

● 'aawiz and 'awza ('want') also work like  
**mumkin**, except that there are separate  
 masculine and feminine forms:

I want to ...

'aawiz	a'amil tilifoon
'awza	aruuh 'aSwaan

You want to .../do you want to ...?

'aawiz tishrab 'ahwa?	(to a man)
'awza tiruuHi ilharam?	(to a woman)

● More times and dates

To talk about fractions of the hour, say **nuSS**  
 (half), **rub'c** (quarter) and **tilt** (third, ie twenty  
 minutes):

issaa'a talaata w nuSS	it's (or at) half past three
issaa'a tamanya w rub'c	it's (or at) quarter past eight
issaa'a itneen wi tilt	it's (or at) two twenty

If minutes are referred to, the ordinary numbers  
 are used:  
 issaa'a waHda w 'ashara ten past one

To say 'a quarter to ...' or 'ten to ...', use *illa* (less):

**issaaċa arbaċa illa rubċ** a quarter to four  
**issaaċa talaata illa ċašhara/khamsa** ten/five to three

Days of the week are given on p74-75, together with the months.

**yoom litneen** (*lit* 'day two' of the Muslim week) is Monday. Often **yoom** is omitted: **litneen**.

Days of the month are simple: the appropriate number is used before the name of the month:

**khamastaashar fibraayir** (on) the 15th February  
**sitta mayyu** (on) the 6th May

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

### Additional vocabulary

<b>muwaSalaat</b> <i>transport</i>	<b>asaafir</b> <i>I travel, leave</i>
<b>maHaTTa</b> <i>station, stop</i>	<b>badri</b> <i>early</i>
<b>maHaTTit il'aTr</b> <i>railway station</i>	<b>wakhri</b> <i>late</i>
<b>'utubiis (pl 'utubisaat)</b> <i>bus</i>	<b>maftuuH</b> <i>open</i>
<b>maHaTTit il'utubiis</b> <i>bus stop</i>	<b>ma'fuul</b> <i>closed</i>
<b>ċarabiyya</b> <i>car</i>	<b>maktab ilbariid</b> <i>post office</i>
<b>[sayyaara, pl sayyaraat</b> <i>car]</i>	<b>maktab SiyaaHa</b> <i>tourist office</i>
<b>b il'aTr</b> <i>by train</i>	<b>'ism buliis</b> <i>police station</i>
<b>b il'utubiis</b> <i>by bus</i>	<b>mustashfa</b> <i>hospital</i>
<b>b ilċarabiyya</b> <i>by car</i>	<b>sifaara</b> <i>embassy</i>
<b>sawwaa'</b> <i>driver</i>	<b>suu'</b> <i>market, bazaar</i>
<b>maTaar</b> <i>airport</i>	

### Worth knowing

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

tourist souvenirs, but where you will also find whole streets devoted to textiles, carpets, gold, jewellery, household goods, herbs and spices, and so on. Like Khan El Khalili in Cairo and the Hamidiyya bazaar in Damascus, they are often at the heart of the old city, by the walls of the earliest mosques and palaces. In North Africa the old part part of the city, the 'medina', is usually a maze of narrow lanes, surrounded by the original medieval walls.

Preferred modes of transport vary from country to country. The system of sharing taxis, especially between towns, is common; they generally operate between fixed points and you change to a 'local' taxi on your arrival. It's best to agree beforehand



on taxi fares, and to make it clear in advance if, for example, you want the driver to wait for you and then bring you back, with the words **mumkin tistanna hinaak, min faDlak?** (can you wait there, please?).

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

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



## Exercises

- 1 Tell someone 'I want ...':
  - a to take a taxi
  - b to go to the pyramids

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- c to go to the hotel
- d to go to the museum
- e a ticket to Aswan

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

3 Now say the same things to a woman.

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

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

Clerk            ayyi **khidma?** Ğaawiz tiruuH feen?  
You            ...  
Clerk            dāraga 'uula walla dāraga tanya?  
You            ...  
Clerk            raayih walla raayih gayy?  
You            ...  
Clerk            tazkara dāraga 'uula tamanha sitta gineeh.  
You            ...  
Clerk            **shukran.**

- 6 What times are being given here?
  - a issaaċa **kham**sa w nuSS
  - b issaaċa itneen wi rubċ
  - c issaaċa Ğāshara w tilt
  - d issaaċa talaata illa **kham**sa
  - e issaaċa waHda illa rubċ

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tisċa w **kham**siin 59



# 6 Business and pleasure

## Key expressions

ilmudiir mawguud?	is the manager in?
mish kida?	isn't it?/isn't that so?
batkallim ċárabí	I speak Arabic
a'addimlak	let me introduce you to
furSa saċiida	pleased to meet you ( <i>lit</i> a happy occasion)
ċandi maċaad (maċa)	I have an appointment (with)
kallimni	ring me
sharraftuuna	you have honoured us
nawwartu beetna	you have honoured us
mumkin awaSSalku?	can I give you ( <i>pl</i> ) a lift?
maċa 'alf salaama	goodbye ( <i>lit</i> with a thousand farewells)

## Conversations

### 1 Making an appointment by phone.

Secretary	'alo?
kaamil	'alo? min faDlak, ilmudiir mawguud?
Secretary	'aywa, mawguud. issayyid kaamil, mish kida? di'ii'a waHda ( <i>she puts him through</i> ).
Director	'aywa ya sayyid kaamil. ayyi khidma?
kaamil	mumkin ašhuufak baċd bukra?
Director	ċandi maċaad iSSubH. mumkin ašhuufak issaaċa talaata.
kaamil	Tayyib. in sha'llaah. 'alfi shukr.

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

zeenab	inti bititkallimi lughaat 'eeh, min faDlik?
Girl	ana batkallim ċárabí w ingiliizi shuwayya.
Girl	ana batkallim ċárabí, batkallim ingiliizi shuwayya, mish kitiir.
zeenab	bititkallimi faransaawi?
Girl	la'.
zeenab	bititkallimi almaani?
Girl	la'.
zeenab	ċárabí bass?
Girl	ċárabí w ingiliizi shuwayya.

... then a man

zeenab	inta bititkallim lughaat 'eeh?
Man	ana batkallim ċárabí w ingiliizi.
zeenab	bititkallim ingiliizi kwayyis walla nuSS nuSS walla shuwayya?
Man	shuwayya shuwayya!

### 3 Being introduced to someone at a party.

kaamil	misaa' ilkheer.
Hostess	misaa' innuur ... ahlán wa sahlán ... itfaDDalu ... sharraftuuna.
kaamil	shukran.
Hostess	ya duktuur saami, a'addimlak ilmuhandis kaamil Hasan, zimiili f ishshirka.
Dr saami	ahlán wa sahlán ... furSa saċiida. itsharrafna.

### 4 Being offered a drink.

Hostess	tishrabu 'eeh ya gamaaċa? fiih kullí Haaga.
leela	ašhrab ċaSiir lamuun min faDlik.
Hostess	w inta ya kaamil?
kaamil	ašhrab biira min faDlik.

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waaHid wi sittiin 61



## 5 Are you happy in Cairo?

**Host** inta mabSuuT fi maSr?  
**kaamil** 'aywa, mabSuuT 'awi, innaas luTaaf giddan.  
**Host** w inti ya madaam?  
**leela** mabSuuTa 'awi, ilHamdu lillaah. bass ilgaww Harr shuwayya, mish kida?

## 6 Telling someone your plans.

**kaamil** Ğandi maċaad maċa maHmuud makkaawi bukra. tiċrafu?  
**Host** 'aywa, raagil laTiif giddan. ilmaċaad issaaċa kam?  
**kaamil** issaaċa khamsa w nuSS.  
**Host** inta w huwwa bass?  
**kaamil** la', ana w issayyid aHmad khaalid. raagil 'aċmaal kuweeti.

## 7 Dinner is served!

**Hostess** ĞaSiir taani, ya madaam?  
**leela** la', shukran, kifaaya kida.  
**Hostess** haniyyan ... il'akl gaahiz, ya gamaaċa! itfaDDalu.

## 8 Asking someone to ring you.

**kaamil** min faDlak, ya duktuur, kallimni yoom il~~k~~hamiis iSSubH. nimrit tilifooni f ilbeet kham~~s~~a sabċa talaata waaHid Sifr itneen. wi tilifoon ilmaktab, arbaċa sitta tamanya kham~~s~~a waaHid waaHid.  
**Dr saami** Tayyib, in sha'allaah.

## 9 And farewells.

**kaamil** Hafla mumtaaza, ya madaam. tislam ideeki. tiSbaHu ċala kheer.  
**Hostess** tiSbaHu ċala kheer.

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**Dr saami**

Ğandi sayyaara. mumkin awaSSalku?

**kaamil**

la', shukran. ilhutiil 'urayyib min hina.

**Hostess**

maċa ssalaama! maċa 'alfi salaama!

## Vocabulary

mawguud	<i>in, present</i>	aċraf	<i>I know</i>
sayyid	<i>Mr</i>	raagil (pl riggaala)	<i>man</i>
maċaad	<i>appointment</i>	raagil 'aċmaal	<i>businessman</i>
'alf	<i>a thousand</i>	kuweeti	<i>Kuwaiti</i>
bititkallim(i)	<i>you speak</i>	taani	<i>another</i>
batkallim	<i>I speak</i>	kifaaya	<i>enough</i>
ċarabi	<i>Arabic</i>	kida	<i>like that, so</i>
ingiliizi	<i>English</i>	haniyyan	<i>with enjoyment</i>
faransaawi	<i>French</i>	gaahiz	<i>ready</i>
almaani	<i>German</i>	'akl	<i>food</i>
nuSS nuSS	<i>so so</i>	il <del>k</del> hamiis	<i>Thursday</i>
zimiil (pl zamaayil)	<i>colleague</i>	nimrit tilifoon	<i>telephone</i>
shirka (pl <u>sh</u> arikaat)	<i>company</i>	beet (pl buyuut)	<i>house, home</i>
ya gamaaċa!	<i>everybody</i>	f ilbeet	<i>at home</i>
kulli Haaga	<i>everything</i>	Sifr	<i>zero</i>
mabSuuT	<i>pleased, happy</i>	maktab	<i>office</i>
naas	<i>people</i>	Hafla	<i>party, reception</i>
laTiif (pl luTaaf)	<i>pleasant, kind</i>	mumtaaz	<i>lovely, splendid</i>
giddan	<i>very</i>	tislam ideeki	<i>bless your hands</i>
gaww	<i>weather</i>	sayyaara (pl sayyaraat)	<i>car</i>
Harr	<i>hot</i>	awaSSal	<i>I give a lift</i>
maċa	<i>with</i>		

## Explanations

- To make an appointment with ...:  
**mumkin aċmil maċaad maċa ...?**  
to which you add the time, day, etc.
- To ask 'Do you know him?': tiċrafu?  
and 'Do you know her?': tiċrafha?

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- **b-** or **bi-** is used before verbs if the action is ongoing or habitual  
**ana batkallim** *Ġārabī*  
**bašhrab biira** I drink (*or am drinking*) beer
- **a'addim** means 'I introduce'.  
With **-lak** (*m*) or **-lik** (*f*), it means 'I introduce to you ...'  
**a'addimlak kaamil Hasan** let me introduce kaamil Hasan to you (*talking to a man*)
- The imperative of **akallim** (I talk to) is **kallim**. **-ni** (*me*) can be added to it:  
**kallimni** talk to me/call me
- More plurals  
Adjectives, like nouns, have plural forms, but they are only used when referring to human beings.  
**luTaaf** is the plural of **laTiif** (*nice*):  
**innaas luTaaf** the people are nice  
NB Plural nouns *not* referring to human beings take the *feminine singular* adjective:  
**issandwitshaat kwayyisa** the sandwiches are nice  
**shikaat siyaHiyya** travellers cheques
- **itfaDDalu** is the plural form of **itfaDDal** or **itfaDDali**; you might hear it when somebody is inviting everyone to come and eat.
- **tiSbaHu** *Ġala kheer* (*good night*) is the plural of **tiSbaH(i)** *Ġala kheer*.
- The commonest way of referring to a man politely is to use **issayyid** (*Mr*) followed by both his first and second names: **issayyid John Bates**.  
The equivalent term for a woman is **madaam**, and for a girl, **'anisa**.

**idduktuur** and **idduktuura** (*Dr*) are used before someone's first or second name.

**il'ustaaz** and **il'ustaaza** (*lit Professor*) are often used as a polite title for anyone with literary or academic qualifications.

Other job titles like **ilmuhandis** (*engineer*) are also used to introduce someone.

When addressing people, any of the following might be appropriate.

ya	<b>duktuur(a)</b>
	<b>'ustaaz(a)</b>
	<b>sayyid kamaal</b>
	<b>madaam</b>

### Worth knowing

Social visits in Arab countries can involve a wealth of polite exchanges of welcome and appreciation, some of which have cropped up in previous chapters.

If you are invited home, you might well hear **sharraftuuna** (*lit you have honoured us*), which can be said at the beginning or the end of a visit.

When being introduced, a common expression is **furSa saċiida** (*pleased to meet you, lit a happy occasion*), and also **itsharraft** (*I am honoured*) and **itsharrafna** (*we are honoured*).

In business dealings, a common way of wishing someone 'good luck' is **b ittawfiiq** (*lit with success*), not forgetting the usual **in sha'allaah**.

To thank someone and say you've had enough, say: **shukran, kifaaya kida**. The reply will often be: **haniyyan** (*glad you enjoyed it, lit with enjoyment*), which is used after either food or drink.

To compliment the hostess on her hospitality:  
**tislam iddeeki** (/it bless your hands)

As you leave someone's home, you will often hear  
**nawwartu beetna** (you have brought light to our  
house) and **maċa 'alfi salaama** (with a thousand  
goodbyes).

### Additional vocabulary

miraati <i>my wife</i>	walad (pl 'awlaad) <i>son, child</i>
miraatak <i>your wife</i>	SaaHib (pl 'aSHAab) <i>friend (m)</i>
goozi <i>my husband</i>	SaHba <i>friend (f)</i>
goozik <i>your husband</i>	

### Exercises

1 You're making a phone call. Ask if the  
following people are in:

- a the director
- b Dr White
- c Mr kamaal gindi
- d Mrs zeenab

2 Which of the following expressions would you  
use A as a host or hostess, B as a guest?

- |                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| a <u>sharraftuuna</u> | A or B? |
| b tislam 'ideeki      | A or B? |
| c 'alfi <u>shukr</u>  | A or B? |
| d maċa 'alfi salaama  | A or B? |
| e nawwartu beetna     | A or B? |

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

**Hostess** misaa' ilkheer ya duktuur ashraf.  
ahlan wa sahan. nawwarti beetna.  
**Guest** ahlan biiki. izzayyik?  
**Hostess** kwayyisa, ilHamdu lillaah ...  
itfaDDal ... tishrab 'eeh?

**Guest** mayya maċdaniyya bass, min  
faDlik.

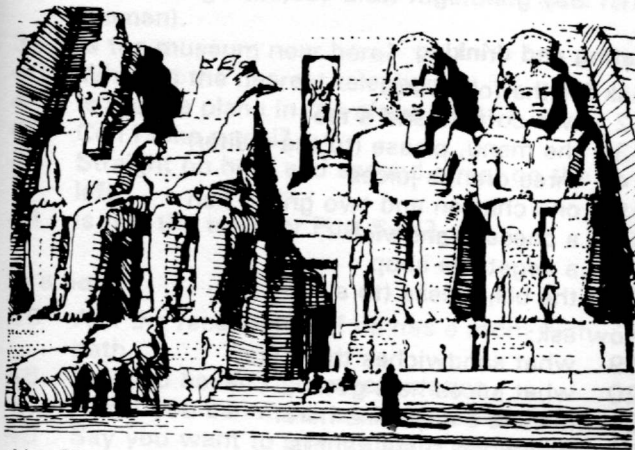
**Hostess** itfaDDal. tiċraf issaayyid khaalid  
gamaal, raagil 'aċmaal min  
baghdaad?

**Guest** furSa saċiida. itsharraft.

- a What time of day is it?
- b Who has just arrived?
- c What does he have to drink?
- d Who is he introduced to?
- e Where does the latter come from, and what's  
his job?

4 Ask a business acquaintance if you can see  
him ...:

- a tomorrow
- b tomorrow afternoon
- c at half past four
- d on Monday
- e on Thursday morning
- f the day after tomorrow
- g in the hotel
- h at home



Abu Simbel

# Can you 'GET BY'?

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

## First contacts

- 1 Say 'good evening'.
- 2 Reply to SabaaH ilkheer.
- 3 Reply to ahlan wa sahlán.
- 4 Ask a woman how she is.
- 5 Ask a man when you'll see him.
- 6 Ask a woman where she's from.
- 7 Say you're from England.
- 8 Say you're not from here.
- 9 Say you're a student (female).
- 10 Say thank you very much.
- 11 Say goodnight (to a couple).

## Eating and drinking

Ask for the following:

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

Now ask:

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

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## Shopping

Ask the price of:

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

Say:

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

## Out and about

Ask for:

- 34 A ticket to Aswan ...
- 35 ... second class ...
- 36 ... return.

Say:

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

## In a hotel

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

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- 50 Ask where the lavatory is.  
 51 Say you have travellers cheques.  
 52 Say the phone isn't working.  
 53 Say 'that's for you' (when tipping a man).

### Social encounters

#### Ask:

- 54 What would you like to drink? (to a man)  
 55 Do you speak English? (to a woman)  
 56 Do you know Dr saami? (to a man)  
 57 Are you happy in London? (to a woman)  
 58 Another juice?

#### Say:

- 59 I have an appointment with Mr Hasan ...  
 60 ... at half past three.  
 61 Cairo is very big, isn't it?  
 62 What languages do you speak? (to a woman)  
 63 You speak a little Arabic ...  
 64 ... and French so so.  
 65 Finally, wish someone success.

## Reference section

### Language notes

- Nouns and adjectives  
 il- is prefixed to definite nouns and adjectives:  
 'akl kwayyis nice food  
 il'akl ilkwayyis the nice food
- A final -a indicates the feminine:  
 mudarris laTiif a nice teacher (m)  
 mudarrisa laTiifa a nice teacher (f)
- Demonstratives (this/that/these/those)  
 da (m), di (f) and dool (pl) are added to definite nouns:  
 il'akl da this/that food  
 ilmudiira di this/that manageress  
 innaas dool these/those people  
 da, di and dool can be used by themselves when referring to masculine, feminine or plural nouns:  
 da kwayyis that (m) is fine  
 di kibiira that (f) one is big  
 dool min landan those are from London
- Plurals  
 -aat is often added to the singular:  
 dolaar - dolaraat sandwitsh - sandwitshaat  
 More usually the word changes internally, following one of half a dozen different 'patterns'. You just have to learn which plural pattern each noun takes.  
 The commonest patterns:  
 kart kuruut 'irsh 'uruush  
 shanTa shunaT furSa furaS

maktab	makaatib	tazkara	tazaakir
maTĉam	maTaa9im	sigara	sagaayir
isbuuĉ	asabiiĉ	miftaaH	mafatiiH
SaaHib	'aSHAab	Sanf	'aSnaaf
walad	'awlaad	nooĉ	'anwaaĉ

After a plural noun a *feminine singular* adjective is usually used:

**sandwitshaat kibiira** big sandwiches  
but the plural form of the adjective is used if the noun refers to human beings:

**naas luTaaf** nice people

This is a common pattern for plural adjectives:

**Sughayyar Sughaar**

#### ● The dual

Instead of using the number 'two', the noun takes the 'dual' ending **-een**:

**yoom day yomeen** two days

In feminine nouns the **-a** ending changes to **-teen**:

**Haaga thing Hagteen** two things

When ordering food or drink, the singular noun is used with all numbers:

**itneen biira** two beers

**arbaĉa shaay** four teas

#### ● Comparatives and superlatives

The same basic pattern is used to make both the comparative (eg bigger) and superlative (eg biggest)

**kibiir big 'akbar** bigger, biggest

**rikhiiS cheap 'arkhaS** cheaper, cheapest

When it means 'bigger', 'cheaper' etc, it *follows* the noun:

**Haaga 'arkhaS** something cheaper

and it comes *before* the noun when it means 'biggest', 'cheapest', etc:

**'arkhaS Haaga** the cheapest thing

#### ● Pronouns

As the subject of a sentence they take the following forms:

<b>ana</b>	I	<b>iHna</b>	we
<b>inta</b>	you (m)	<b>intu</b>	you (pl)
<b>inti</b>	you (f)		
<b>huwwa</b>	he	<b>humma</b>	they
<b>hiyya</b>	she		

Following a noun or preposition they take the forms:

<b>-i</b>	beeti	my home
<b>-ak</b>	beetak	your (m) home
<b>-ik</b>	beetik	your (f) home
<b>-u</b>	beetu	his home
<b>-ha</b>	beetha	her home
<b>-na</b>	beetna	our home
<b>-ku</b>	beetku	your (pl) home
<b>-hum</b>	beethum	their home

After a preposition:

**'uddaami** in front of me

**ĉandu** *lit* with him, *ie* he has

After verbs, almost the same forms are used; only the 'me' form is different:

**kallim speak to kallimni** speak to me

#### ● A regular verb in the present tense:

<b>ashrab</b>	I drink	<b>nishrab</b>	we drink
<b>tishrab</b>	you (m) drink	<b>tishrabu</b>	you(pl) drink
<b>tishrabi</b>	you (f) drink		
<b>yishrab</b>	he drinks	<b>yishrabu</b>	they drink
<b>tishrab</b>	she drinks		

*ie* various prefixes and suffixes are added to the base **-shrab-**.

These forms can follow **mumkin** (can), **laazim** (must) and **ĉaawiz** or **ĉawza** (want):

<b>mumkin ashrab?</b>	can I drink?
<b>laazim tishrab</b>	you (m) must drink
<b>ĉaawiz yishrab</b>	he wants to drink

- **bi-** precedes the verb if the action is habitual or ongoing:

**hiyya bitishrab mayya** she (usually) drinks (or is now drinking) water

**bititkallim ingiliizi?** do you speak English?

- Imperatives

The initial **t-** of the second person is lost:

**ishrab!** drink! (m)

**ishrabi!** drink! (f)

**ishrabu!** drink! (pl)

For verbs like **ashuuf** (see) and **aruuH** (go), where the base begins with a single consonant, the initial **-i** is lost as well:

**shuuf!** look! (m)

**shuufi!** look! (f)

**shuufu!** look! (pl)

- Negatives

In 'verbless' sentences like

**ana min landan** I (am) from London

**huwwa laTiif** he (is) kind, pleasant

**mish** is inserted:

**ana mish min landan**

**huwwa mish laTiif** etc

With verbs, **ma-** and **-sh** are placed before and after the verb:

**mayishuufsh** he doesn't see

The same is true for **fiih** and **ƙand-**:

**mafiish 'akl** there is no food

**maƙandiish sayyaara** I don't have a car

**maƙandaksh sandwitsheet?** don't you have sandwiches?

- Days of the week

**yoom litneen** Monday

**yoom ittalaat** Tuesday

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**yoom larbaƙ** Wednesday

**yoom ilkhamiis** Thursday

**yoom ilgumƙa** Friday

**yoom issabt** Saturday

**yoom ilHadd** Sunday

**yoom** (day) can be omitted.

- Months of the year

**yanaayir** January

**yulyu** July

**fibraayir** February

**aghusTus** August

**maaris** March

**sibtimbir** September

**abriil** April

**uktuubar** October

**mayyu** May

**nuvimbir** November

**yunyu** June

**disimbir** December

- The seasons

**irrabiiƙ** the spring

**iSSeef** the summer

**ilkhariif** the autumn

**ishshita** the winter

- Numbers

0 **Sifr** 14 **arbaƙtaashar**

1 **waaHid** 15 **khamastaashar**

2 **itneen** 16 **sittaashar**

3 **talaata** 17 **sabƙataashar**

4 **arbaƙa** 18 **tamantaashar**

5 **khamisa** 19 **tisaƙtaashar**

6 **sitta** 20 **ƙishriin**

7 **sabƙa** 30 **talatiin**

8 **tamanya** 40 **arbiƙiin**

9 **tisƙa** 50 **khamsiin**

10 **ƙashara** 60 **sittiin**

11 **Hidaashar** 70 **sabƙiin**

12 **itnaashar** 80 **tamaniin**

13 **talattaashar** 90 **tisƙiin**

Any number over 10 is followed by a *singular* noun:

**Hidaashar yoom** 11 days

**talatiin Taalib** 30 students

To make numbers like twenty-five, fifty-three,

**khamisa w sabƙiin** 75

V6

say 'five and twenty', 'three and fifty':

25 **khamisa w ċishriin**  
53 **talaata w khamsiin**

100	<b>miyya</b>	1000	<b>'alf</b>
200	<b>miteen</b>	2000	<b>'alfeen</b>
300	<b>tultumiyya</b>	3000	<b>talat alaaf</b>
400	<b>rubċumiyya</b>	4000	<b>arbaċt alaaf</b>
500	<b>khumsumiyya</b>	5000	<b>khamast alaaf</b>
600	<b>suttumiyya</b>	6000	<b>sitt alaaf</b>
700	<b>subċumiyya</b>	7000	<b>sabaċt alaaf</b>
800	<b>tumnumiyya</b>	8000	<b>tamant alaaf</b>
900	<b>tusċumiyya</b>	9000	<b>tisaċt alaaf</b>

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

£400	<b>rubċumiit gineeh</b>
300,000	<b>tultumiit 'alf</b>
400,000	<b>rubċumiit 'alf</b>

## Key to exercises

### Chapter 1

- a ana min ingiltira.  
b ismi John.
- a ana min maSr. (or ana min ilqaahira).  
b ismi Taari'.
- a afternoon or evening.  
b morning  
c any time of day
- a misaa' innuur.  
b SabaaH innuur.  
c ahlan biik(i).
- a ahlan wa sahlán. ismak 'eeh?  
b inta mineen?
- a ahlan wa sahlán. ismik 'eeh?  
b inti mineen?
- a SabaaH ilkheer ya mu'nis.  
b (inta) izzayyak?  
c ashuufak imta?  
d in sha'allaah.

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### Chapter 2

- a ċaSiir burTu'aan min faDlak.  
b itneen biira min faDlak.  
c sandwitsh min faDlak.  
d 'ahwa maZbuut min faDlak.  
e shurbit khuDaar min faDlak.  
f ilHisaab min faDlak.
- min faDlak would become min faDlik.
- a fiih 'ahwa?  
b fiih ċaSiir manga?  
c fiih shurbit baSal?  
d fiih ruzz?  
e fiih sandwitshaat?
- a ċandak 'ahwa?  
b ċandak ċaSiir manga?  
c ċandak shurbit baSal?  
d ċandak ruzz?  
e ċandak sandwitshaat?
- a ċandak sandwitshaat gibna?  
b fiih nibiit hina?  
c ċandak mayya maċdaniyya?  
d ilHisaab min faDlak.  
e shukran.

### Chapter 3

- a a big bag  
b the big bag  
c the bag is big  
d this bag is big
- a ċandak kuruut buSTaal min faDlak?  
b ċandak Tawaabiċ min faDlak?  
c ċandak film mulawwan min faDlak?  
d ċandak shanTa kibiira min faDlak?  
e ċandak gallabiyya Hamra?
- a mumkin ashuuf gallabiyya?  
b mumkin ashuuf ilkamera di?  
c mumkin ashuuf ma'aas 'akbar?  
d mumkin ashuuf Sanf 'arkhaS?
- a bi kam kiilu ilburTu'aan?  
b bi kam nuSS kiilu illamuun?  
c bi kam itneen kiilu ilmooz?  
d bi kam nuSS kiilu issukkar?
- a di ghalya 'awi  
b da ghaali 'awi  
c da ghaali 'awi  
d di ghalya 'awi

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sabċa w sabċiin 77



- 6 a fiih shanTa 'akbar?  
b fiih fustaan 'aSghar?  
c fiih kamera 'arkhaS?  
d fiih Sanf 'aHsan?

#### Chapter 4

- 1 a fiih Hammaam?  
b fiih dushsh?  
c fiih tilifoon?  
d fiih mayya sukhna?  
2 a ilHammaam ċaTlaan.  
b iddushsh ċaTlaan.  
c ittilifoon ċaTlaan.  
d mafiish mayya sukhna.  
3 a mumkin adfaċ ilHisaab?  
b mumkin aċmil tilifoon?  
c mumkin aghayyar dolaraat?  
4 SabaaH innuur.  
fiih 'ooDa faDya?  
bi sirir waaHid.  
lelteen.  
bi kam il'ooDa?

#### Chapter 5

- 1 ċaawiz ... (or ċawza ...)  
a aakhud taksi.  
b aruuH ilharam.  
c aruuH il'utiil.  
d aruuH ilmatHaf.  
e tazkara li 'aSwaan.  
2 laazim ...  
a taakhud taksi.  
b tishuuf ilharam.  
c tidfaċ ilHisaab.  
d tiruuH il'agzakhaana.  
3 laazim  
a takhdi taksi  
b tishuufi ilharam.  
c tidfaċ i ilHisaab.  
d tiruuHi il'agzakhaana  
4 a (imshi) ċala Tool.  
b (imshi) ċala shshimaal.  
c (taakhuud) 'awwil shaariċ ċala lyimiin.

- 5 (ana) ċaawiz aruuH 'aSwaan.  
dāraga 'uula.  
raayih gayy.  
itfaDDal.

6 a 5.30 b 2.15 c 10.20 d 2.55 e 12.45

#### Chapter 6

- 1 a ilmudir mawguud?  
b idduktuur White mawguud?  
c issayyid kamaal gindi mawguud?  
d madaam zeenab mawguuda?  
2 a A b B c B d A or B e A  
3 a afternoon or evening  
b Dr ashraf  
c mineral water  
d Mr khaalid gamaal  
e He's a businessman from Baghdad.  
4 mumkin ashuufak ...  
a bukra?  
b bukra baċ d iDDuhr?  
c issaaċa arbaċa w nuSS?  
d (yoom) litneen?  
e (yoom) ilkhamiis iSSubH?  
f baċ d bukra?  
g f il'utiil?  
h f ilbeet?

## Answers to 'Can you get by?'

- 1 misaa' ilkheer.
- 2 SabaaH innuur.
- 3 ahlan biik (to a man); ahlan biiki (to a woman)
- 4 izzayyik?
- 5 ashuufak imta?
- 6 inti mineen?
- 7 ana min ingiltira.
- 8 ana mish min hina.
- 9 ana Taaliba.
- 10 'alf shukr.
- 11 tiSbaHu ċala kheer.
- 12 itneen 'ahwa w waaHid shaay.
- 13 ilminyū, min faDlak.
- 14 talaata ċaSiir burTu'aan.
- 15 waaHid firaakh w itneen samak mashwi.
- 16 (waaHid) sandwitsh gibna.
- 17 (waaHid) shurbit khuDaar.
- 18 ilHisaab, min faDlik.
- 19 fiih sandwitshaat 'eeh?
- 20 ċandak ċaSiir 'eeh?
- 21 fiih nibiit hina?
- 22 ilmaTċam feen?
- 23 ilfiTaar issaaċa kam?
- 24 bi kam ilgallabiyya di ...?
- 25 ... w ilHamra di?
- 26 bi kam ishshanTa ilkibiira?
- 27 bi kam kiilu ilbaTaaTis?
- 28 bi kam arbaċ Tawaabiċ l ingiltira?
- 29 ishshanTa di ghalya 'awi.
- 30 mumkin ashuuf ma'aas 'akbar?
- 31 ċaawiz (or ċawza) film l ilkámara di?
- 32 ċandak khariiTa l ilqaahira?
- 33 mish mumkin. da ghaali 'awi.
- 34 tazkara li 'aSwaan
- 35 ...dārāga tanya
- 36 ...raayih gayy.
- 37 ċaawiz aruuH ilharam.
- 38 ċawza aruuH baċd bukra.
- 39 ilmatHaf 'urayyib min hina?
- 40 feen 'a'rab tilifoon?
- 41 fiih Tayyaara iDDuhr?
- 42 mumkin aakhud taksi?
- 43 ċala Tool hina wi taani shaariċ ċala shshimaal.
- 44 da 'aTr buur saċiid?
- 45 ċandak 'ooDa bi Hammaam?
- 46 maċandiish Hagz.
- 47 mumkin aċmil tilifoon min hina?

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- 48 ana ċaawiz (or ċawza) aghayyar istirliini.
- 49 'ooDa nimra miteen wi talataashar.
- 50 ittwalett feen?
- 51 ċandi shikaat siyaHiyya.
- 52 ittilifoon ċaTlaan (or mish shaghghaal).
- 53 da ċalashaanak.
- 54 tishrab 'eeh?
- 55 (inti) bititkallimi ingiliizi?
- 56 (inta) tiċraf idduktuur saami?
- 57 (inti) mabSuuTa fi landan?
- 58 ċaSiir taani?
- 59 ċandi maċaad maċa issayyid Hasan ...
- 60 ... issaaċa talaata w nuSS.
- 61 ilqaahira kibiira 'awi, mish kida? (or maSr kibiira, mish kida?)
- 62 (inti) bititkallimi lughaat 'eeh?
- 63 (ana) batkallim ċarabi shuwayya ...
- 64 ... wi faransaawi nuSS nuSS.
- 65 b ittawfiq, in sha'llaah.

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waaHid wi tamaniin 81

## Word list

The following is a list of the words appearing in the conversations in the six chapters.

The alphabetical order used is:

' a b d D e f g gh h H i k kh l m n o q r s S  
sh t T u v w y z Z Ğ

In addition, related forms are shown thus wherever they seem valuable:

plurals Suura (p/ Suwar)  
masculines Hamra (m 'aHmar)  
feminines gaahiz (f gahza)

Verbs are given in the first person singular form, eg

ashtiri I buy

ashuuf I see

so if you are looking for the words tishrab or tiġraf, look under ashrah or aċraf. A fuller list of verb forms can be found on p73-74.

'a'rab nearer, nearest	'urayyib (min) near (to)
'aasif (f 'asfa) sorry	'uruush piastres
'agzakhaana chemist	'utiil hotel
'ahwa coffee	'uula first (f)
'aHsan better, best	a
'akbar bigger, biggest	a'addimlak ... let me
'akl food	introduce ... to you
'alf a thousand	aakul I eat
'alf shukr many thanks	aakhud I take
'alo hallo (on phone)	adfaċ I pay
'arkhaS cheaper; cheapest	aghayyar I change
'asanSiir lift	ahlan hallo, nice to meet you
'asfa sorry (f)	ahlan biik(i) reply to ahlan
'aSwaan Aswan	or ahlan wa sahlān
'aTr train	ahlan wa sahlān hallo, nice
'awi very	to meet you, welcome
'awwil (f 'uula) first	akallim I speak (to)
'aywa yes	aktib I write
'eeh? what?	almaani German
'irsh (pl 'uruush) piastre	amDi I sign
'izaaza bottle	amshi I go
'ooDa (pl 'owaD) room	ana I
'uddaam in front of	arbaċa four
'umaash material	arbiċiin forty

aruuH I go (to)

ashrah I drink

ashtiri I buy

ashuuf I see

atkallim I speak

awaSSal I give a lift

ayyi khidma can I help you?;  
don't mention it

aċmil tilifoon I make a  
phone call

aċraf I know

b

balad town, country

bank bank

banyu bath

baċuur passport

bass but; only

baSal onion

batkallim I speak

baTaaTis potatoes

baċd after

baċd bukra (the) day after  
tomorrow

baċdeen later, then

baċd iDDuhr afternoon

beeD eggs

beet (pl buyuut) house, home

bi with

bi balaash free, for nothing

bi kam? how much?

bi kheer fine, well

bi kull suruur with the  
greatest pleasure; certainly

biira beer

bisilla peas

biċiid (min) far (from)

bukra tomorrow

burTu'aan orange

buur saċiid Port Said

d

da this, that (m)

dāraga class

di this, that (f)

di'ii'a moment, minute

dilwa'ti now

dolaar (pl dolaraat) dollar

door floor

duktuur (f -a) doctor

dushsh shower

D

Duhr (after)noon

f

faaDi (f faDya) empty, free

falaafil chick peas or beans

faransaawi French

farawla strawberry

feen? where?

fi in, at

fiih there is/are

film (pl 'aflaam) film

firaakh chicken

fiTaar breakfast

furSa saċiida pleased to  
meet you

fuul cooked beans

g

gaahiz (f gahza) ready

gallabiyya (pl -aat)

galabiyya

gamaaċa everyone

gamal camel

gambari prawns

gawaafa guava

gaww weather

gibna cheese

giddan very

gineeh pound

grefruut grapefruit

gh

ghaali (f ghalya) expensive

h

haniyyan glad you enjoyed it

haram pyramids

hina here

hinaak there

hiyya she

hutiil hotel

huwwa he

H

HaaDir certainly, at once

Haaga (pl Hagaat) thing,  
something

Haaga kamaan? (or Haaga tanya?) anything else?  
 Hafila (pl Hafalaat) party, reception  
 Hagz reservation  
 Hammaam bathroom  
 Hamra (m 'aHmar) red  
 Harr hot  
 Hilw beautiful, fine, sweet  
 Hisaab bill

i  
 iddiini give me  
 ilHamdu lillaah fine (God be praised)  
 ilkhamsi Thursday  
 ilkhartuum Khartoum  
 illa less, without  
 ilqaahira Cairo  
 il'afw not at all; don't mention it  
 imta? when?  
 ingiliizi English  
 ingiltira England  
 in sha'allaah God willing; I hope so  
 inta you (m)  
 inti you (f)  
 iskindriyya Alexandria  
 ism name  
 issaa'a kam? what time is it?; at what time?  
 issudaan Sudan  
 issu'udiyya Saudi Arabia  
 istirliini sterling  
 iSSumaal Somalia  
 itfaDDal(i) here you are; help yourself  
 itnaashar twelve  
 itneen two  
 izzayyak? how are you (to a man)  
 izzayyik? how are you? (to a woman)

k  
 kallimni ring me  
 kam? how much?; how many?  
 kamaan also

kamera camera  
 kart (pl kuruut) buSTaal postcard  
 kibiir big  
 kibda liver  
 kida like that, so  
 kifaaya enough  
 kitiir a lot, much, many  
 kufta meat balls  
 kull each, every  
 kuweeti Kuwaiti  
 kwayyis fine, well

kh  
 khamsa five  
 khan ilkhaliili Khan El Khalili  
 khariiTa map  
 khidma service  
 khuDaar vegetables

l  
 la' no  
 laazim it is necessary, have to, must  
 lamuun lemon  
 landan London  
 laTiif (pl luTaaf) nice, pleasant  
 leela (pl layaali) night  
 li to, for  
 litneen Monday  
 lugha (pl -aat) language

m  
 ma'aas size  
 mabSuut happy  
 mafiish there isn't/aren't  
 maktab (pl makaatib) office  
 malyaan full  
 manga mango  
 maSr Egypt, Cairo (see p19)  
 mashwi grilled  
 matHaf museum  
 maT'am (pl maTaa'im) restaurant  
 mawguud available, in  
 mayya (ma'adaniyya) (mineral) water  
 maZbuut right; exact;

medium sweet  
 ma'a with  
 ma'a ssalaama goodbye  
 ma'aad appointment  
 ma'andiish I haven't  
 midaan square  
 midaan ittaHriir Liberation Square  
 min from  
 mineen? where from?  
 min faDlak please (to a man)  
 min faDlik please (to a woman)  
 minyu menu  
 misaa' ilkhheer good afternoon/evening  
 misaa' innuur reply to  
 misaa' ilkhheer  
 mish not  
 mish kida? isn't it?; isn't that so?  
 miteen two hundred  
 mitr metre  
 mudarris (f -a) teacher  
 mudiri (f -a) manager, director  
 muftaaH key  
 muhandis (f -a) engineer  
 mulawwan coloured, in colour  
 mumkin it is possible  
 mumtaaz lovely, splendid

n  
 naas people  
 nawwartu beetna you have honoured us  
 nibiit wine  
 nimra number  
 nimrit tilifoon telephone number  
 nuSS half  
 nuSS nuSS so so  
 nuuba Nubia

r  
 raagil (pl riggaala) man  
 raagil 'a'maal businessman  
 raayih single  
 raayih gay return

raSiif platform  
 rikhiis cheap  
 rub' quarter  
 ruzz rice

s  
 sa'a cold  
 saa'a hour; time  
 sabaanikh spinach  
 sab'a seven  
 sab'iiin seventy  
 samak fish  
 sanduu' box  
 sandwitsh (pl -aat) sandwich  
 sayyaara (pl sayyaraat) car  
 sayyid Mr  
 sirir bed  
 sitta six  
 sittiin sixty  
 sukhna hot  
 suttumiyya six hundred

S  
 SabaaH ilkhheer good morning  
 SabaaH innuur reply to SabaaH ilkhheer  
 Sanf (pl 'aSnaaf) kind, sort  
 Sifr zero  
 SuBH morning  
 Suura (pl Suwar) picture

sh  
 shaari' (pl shawaari') street  
 shaay tea  
 shanTa (pl shunaT) bag  
 sharraftuuna you have honoured us  
 shiik (pl shikaat) siyaHiyya travellers cheque  
 shiisha hubble bubble  
 shimaal left  
 shirka (pl sharikaat) company  
 shukran thank you  
 shurba soup  
 shuwayya a little, quite

t  
 taani (f tanya) second; other  
 taksi (pl taksiyyaat) taxi  
 talaata three



talatiin *thirty*  
 taman *cost, price*  
 tamanya *eight*  
 tanya *second (f)*  
 tazkara (pl *tazaakir*) *ticket*  
 tiSbaH ĉala kheer *good*  
     *night*  
 tilifoon *telephone*  
 tilivizyoon *television*  
 tilt *a third; twenty minutes*  
 tislam ideeki *thank you for*  
     *your hospitality (lit bless*  
     *your hands)*

y  
 ya *form of address (see*  
     *p17)*  
 y afandim *sir*  
 ya beeh *sir*  
 ya madaam *madam*  
 yimiin *right*  
 yoom (pl 'ayyaam) *day*

z  
 zimiil (pl zamaayil)  
     *colleague*

ĉ  
 ĉaawiz (or ĉaayiz) *I/you/he*  
     *want(s)*  
 ĉafwan *not at all; don't*  
     *mention it*  
 ĉala *on*  
 ĉala Tool *straight on*  
 ĉalashaan *for*  
 ĉandi *I have*  
 ĉarabi *Arabic*  
 ĉaSiir *juice*  
 ĉaTlaan *not working*  
 ĉawza (or ĉayza) *I/you/she*  
     *want(s)*  
 ĉishriin *twenty*

w  
 waaHid (f waHda) *one*  
 walla *or*  
 wi *and*

## An introduction to Arabic writing

The purpose of this section is to help you recognise public signs, posters, notices and the like which you will see on visits to Arab countries.

Arabic is written from right to left, and its alphabet has 29 letters. Most of these letters are easy to pronounce for English speakers, as equivalent sounds exist in English (see Pronunciation guide, p8). The Arabic alphabet and the corresponding transliterations are as follows:

NB 'th' is pronounced as in 'thanks' and 'th' as in 'that'

kh	H	j	or g	th	t	b	a	'glottal stop
خ	ح	ج	ث	ت	ب	أ	ء	
D	S	sh	s	z	r	th	d	
ض	ص	ش	س	ز	ر	ذ	د	
k	q	f	gh	ع	ز	ط	T	
ك	ق	ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط		
y	w	h	n	m	ل	ل		
ي	و	ه	ن	م	ل	ل		

These three letters are used as long vowels:

aa ا ii ي or uu و

The glottal stop ʾ is usually 'carried' on top of one of the long vowel symbols; eg أ = 'a

NB The sound represented by ذ (as in 'that') has changed into 'd' or 'z' in spoken Egyptian Arabic, and the sound represented by ث (as in 'thanks') has changed into 't' or 's'.

There are vowel 'marks' which are not included in the 29 letters of the alphabet. They *can* be shown, written above or below the consonant (eg تَ = ta, تِ = ti, تُ = tu), but in writing and print the marks are nearly always omitted, (a bit like English shorthand) as those who know the language well can recognise the words without them.

If a consonant is doubled, a ّ appears above the letter: (eg حَمَام = Hammaam, سَيَّة = sitta).

Unlike English, Arabic letters are 'joined up' into words not only in writing but in print as well. The 'joining' system, however, is subject to certain rules to avoid risk of confusion and also for aesthetic purposes (Arabs are very proud of the beauty of the Arabic script).

1 The following letters never join the letter following them.

ا ا د ذ ر ز و

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

ب ت ث ي ن ف ق

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

ج ح خ س ش ص ض ع غ ل

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

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

End	Middle	Beginning
ت ة ة	ت	ت
ع ع ع	ع	ع
غ غ غ	غ	غ
ك ك ك	ك	ك
ه ه ه	ه	ه
ي ي ي	ي	ي

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

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

ا	أكل	سأل	بدأ
ب	بيت	سبت	كتب
ت	تين	كتب	بنت
ة	قهوة	ة	حفلة
ث	ثلج	نثر	لبث
ج	جمل	سجد	نتج
ح	حرب	بحر	لمح
خ	خبز	دخل	صرخ
د	دخل	بدر	بلد
ذ	ذهب	بذر	لذيق
ر	رجل	برد	أجر

ز	زیت	ن ز ف	ب ر ز
ز	زیت	ن ز ف	ب ر ز
س	س ت ر	م س ك	ل م س
س	ستر	مسك	لمس
ش	ش ك ر	ر ش د	ق ر ش
ش	شكر	رشد	قرش
ص	ص ر ف	م ص ر	ح ر ص
ص	صرف	مصر	حرص
ض	ض ي ف	ن ض ر	ع ر ض
ض	ضيف	نضر	عرض
ط	ط ر ب	ق ط ر	ن ف ط
ط	طرب	قطر	نفط
ظ	ظ ب ي	ن ظ ر	و ع ظ
ظ	ظبي	نظر	وعظ
ع	ع ل م	س ع د	م ن ع ب ر ع
ع	علم	سعد	منع برع
غ	غ ر ب	ب غ د ا د	ب ل غ ف ر غ
غ	غرب	بغداد	بلغ فرغ
ف	ف ت ح	ل ف ت	أ ل ف
ف	فتح	لفت	ألف
ق	ق ل ب	ن ق ل	ح ل ق
ق	قلب	نقل	حلق

ك	ك ت ب	م ك ت ب	س م ك
ك	كتب	مكتب	سمك
ل	ل ب س	ب ل د	ح م ل
ل	لبس	بلد	حمل
م	م ل ك	س م ك	ق ل م
م	ملك	سمك	قلم
ن	ن ش ر	ب ن ت	ل ب ن
ن	نشر	بنت	لبن
ه	ه ر م	س ه ل	ر ف ه ب ل د ه
ه	هرم	سهل	رفه بلده
و	و ل د	ف و ل	ح ل و
و	ولد	فول	حلو
ي	ي ج د	ن ي ل	ل ق ي ه د ي
ي	يجد	نيل	لقي هدي

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

menu	ilminyu	المنيو
restaurant	maTcam	مطعم
hotel	hutiil	هوتيل
hotel	funduq	فندق
WC	doorit mayya	دورة مياه

gents	I irrigaal	للرجال
ladies	I issayyidaat	للستات
danger	khaTar	خطر
exit	khuruug	خروج
no entry	mamnuuċ iddukuhuul	ممنوع الدخول
no smoking	mamnuuċ ittadkhiin	ممنوع التدخين
no photographs	mamnuuċ ittaSwiir	ممنوع التصوير
no parking	mamnuuċ wuquuf issayyaraat	ممنوع وقوف السيارات
bus stop	mawqaf il'utubiis	موقف الأوتوبيس
taxi rank	mawqaf ittaksi	موقف التاكسي
car park	mawqaf issayyaraat	موقف السيارات
post office	maktab ilbariid	مكتب البريد
information office	maktab ilistiċlamaat	مكتب الاستعلامات
information	ilistiċlamaat	الاستعلامات
tourist office	maktab issiyaaHa	مكتب السياحة
ticket window	shibbaak ittazaakir	شباك التذاكر
bank	maSraf	مصرف
92	itneen wi tisċiin	٩٢

bank	bank	بنك
bureau de change	maSraf taghyiir ilċumla	مصرف تغيير العملة
bureau de change	maktab Siraafa	مكتب صرافة
to the airport	ila ImaTaar	إلى المطار
to the station	ila ImaHaTTa	إلى المحطة
stop	qif	قف
customs	ilgamaarik	الجمارك
passports and visas	ilgawazaat w itta'shiiraat	الجوازات والتأشيرات
embassy	sifaara	سفارة
consulate	qunSuliyya	قنصلية
museum	matHaf	متحف
exhibition	maċraD	معرض
company	shirka	شركة
telephone	ittilifoon	التليفون
telephone	ilhaatif	[الهاتف]
telephones	tilifoonaat	تليفونات
telegrams	tilighrafaat	تليغرافات
hospital	mustashfa	مستشفى
chemist's	'agzakhaana	أجزخانة
chemist's	Saydaliyya	صيدلية
police station	qism ilbuliis	قسم البوليس
93	talaata w tisċiin	٩٣



police station markaz ishshurTa [مركز الشرطة]

NOTES

cafe maqha مقهى

In much of the Arab world, the following figures are used:

٩	٨	٧	٦	٥	٤	٣	٢	١	٠
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

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

٧٨٦٤٣١٥	٣٥١٤٧٦٣	١٩٨٥
7864315	Tel: 351476	1985

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