



ArabicPod101.com

LEVEL

1



# Arabic

## Introduction



*Unabridged Edition*

**innovative** LANGUAGE

## LESSON NOTES

# Basic Bootcamp #1

## Self Introduction - Basic Greetings in Arabic

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Egyptian Arabic
- 2 Vowelled Egyptian Arabic
- 2 Egyptian Romanization
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

# 1

## EGYPTIAN ARABIC

1. هَالَة: أهلاً ، أنا هالة ، فرصة سعيدة.

2. سايمون: أهلاً ، أنا سيمون ، أنا أسعد.

## VOWELLED EGYPTIAN ARABIC

1. هَالَة: أهلاً ، أنا هَالَة ، فُرْصَة سَعِيدَة.

2. سايمون: أهلاً ، أنا سِيْمُون ، أنا أَسْعَد.

## EGYPTIAN ROMANIZATION

1. HAALAH: 'ahlaan , 'anaā haalah, furṣah sa'īdah.

2. SĀĪMŪN: 'ahlaan, 'anaā siīmuūn, 'anaā 'as'ad.

## ENGLISH

1. HALA: Hello. I'm Hala. Pleased to meet you.

2. SIMON: Hello. I'm Simon. Pleased to meet you, too.

## VOCABULARY

Arabic	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
أنا	'nā	I / I am	pronoun	neutral

أهلاً وسهلاً	'hlan wa saḥlan	hello (as a reply)	greeting	neutral
أهلاً	'ahlan	hello	interjection	neutral
فرصة سعيدة	furṣah sa'īdah	Pleased to meet you.	greeting	neutral

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

'nā 'ḥmad. I'm Ahmed.	أنا أحمد. 'ahlan wa saḥlan yā 'ustād.	أهلاً وسهلاً يا أستاذ. Hello Sir, Mr
'hlan wa saḥlan yā 'ustaād . Hello, Mister.	أهلاً وسهلاً يا أستاذ. 'hlan! 'itfaḍḍal!	أهلاً! إتفضل! Hello! Please come in! (Egyptian Arabic)
furṣah sa'īdah yā ġūn! Pleased to meet you, John!		فرصة سعيدة يا جون!

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

The phrase أهلاً "hello" can be used in the morning, day, evening, basically anytime. It is very popular.

*furṣh sa'īdh* or "it's nice to meet you" literally means "happy chance," or "happy, فرصة سعيدة, opportunity." It's an expression used when meeting somebody for the first time. *Fursa* means "chance." You can use it separately in any conversation or context like "that's a good chance" (فرصة سعيدة) or "I have a good chance in winning the trip" and so on.

(*sa'īdh*) means "happy" happy for a female. (*nā sa'īdh*, أنا سعيدة) means "I am happy" and can be said by a female. As part of the expression, it goes with the different meaning (فرصة سعيدة)

-*furṣh sa'īdh*) "pleased to meet you" and can be used as a reply as well.

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Self-Introductions

**"Hello. I'm Simon. It's nice to meet you."**

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We do not use the verb "to be" in self-introductions in Arabic. *Ana* means both "I" or "I am" and it's always used when talking about present tense as well but that will be explained in a later lesson. When introducing yourself, you usually go by first name. It's very friendly and it's more common. In a professional situation, you use your first and second name or first and family name.

Mohammed, Ahmed, Mahmoud, Mostafa, which are names of the prophets and his companions, are also common names for men. There are more options and varieties for women, but again, Islamic names will take the majority of it. They are easily recognizable even if they're not common. If people have the same name, such as Mohammed, and there are four or five Mohammed's at the same time, we will commonly call them by their second name, which eventually might just stick to them.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Greetings in Arabic

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Often people shake hands when they greet each other or introduce themselves in Egypt and the Arabic world. It is considered decent and polite. However, some women may not do that as it may vary for different cultural and education backgrounds. Since it may be difficult to tell at times, unless it's a professional situation, a greeting and a small nod of the head is recommended.

Sometimes certain classes might give kisses on the cheek and it is acceptable to give kisses to people of the same sex between friends. However, for people meeting for the first time and for members of the opposite sex, giving kisses is unacceptable. If you are a male and you tried to give your female friend a friendly greeting kiss, she would most likely back away!

## LESSON NOTES

# Basic Bootcamp #2

## Basic Arabic Sentence Structure

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- 2 Vowelled Egyptian Arabic
- 2 Egyptian Romanization
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# 2

## EGYPTIAN ARABIC

1. هالة: أهلا ، أنا هالة ، أنا مصرية.

2. سايمون: أهلا ، أنا سيمون ، أنا انجليزي.

## VOWELLED EGYPTIAN ARABIC

1. هَالَة: أَهْلًا ، أَنَا هَالَة ، أَنَا مَصْرِيَّة .

2. سَايْمُون: أَهْلًا ، أَنَا سِيْمُون ، أَنَا إِنجِلِيْزِي .

## EGYPTIAN ROMANIZATION

1. HAAL-AH: 'ahlaan, 'anaā haalah, 'anaā maşryyah.

2. SĀĪMŪN: 'ahlaan, 'anaā siīmuūn , 'anaā 'inġiliīzī.

## ENGLISH

1. HALA: Hello. I'm Hala. I'm Egyptian. (female)

2. SIMON: Hello. I'm Simon, I'm English. (male)

## VOCABULARY

Arabic	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
أهلا	'ahlan	hello	interjection	neutral

أنا	'nā	I / I am	subject pronoun	first person (m, f)
مصرية	miṣriyyh	Egyptian	noun	feminine
إنجليزي	'inglīzī	English	adjective	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

أهلاً! إتفضل! 'hlan! 'itfaḍḍal! Hello! Please come in! (Egyptian Arabic)	أنا مبسوطة النهاردة . 'nā mabsūṭah al-nahārdah . I'm happy today. (Egyptian Arabic)
أنا مصرية من القاهرة. 'nā miṣriyyh min elqāhirh. I'm Egyptian from Cairo.	هو إنجليزي. huwa 'ingaltraa. He is English.

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

All nationalities end with an [ee] sound for masculine and an [eyya] sound for feminine. [een] and [oun] are for plurals.

### For Example:

- لبناني - لبنانية  
*Libnānī - Libnāniyyh*  
"Lebanese"
- سوري - سورية  
*Sūrī - Sūriyyh*  
"Syrian"
- سعودي - سعودية  
*Su'ūdī - Su'ūdiyyh*  
"Saudi"



4.

مغربي - مغربية

*Mağribī - Mağribiyyh*  
"Moroccan"

5.

كويتي - كويتية

*Kuwaitī - Kuwaitiyyh*  
"Kuwaiti"

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Word Order

#### "Hello. I'm Hala. I'm Egyptian."

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The word order in Arabic is the same as in English: subject - verb - object. It can also be verb - subject - object. However, this is less common.

#### For Example:

1.

أنا أدرس العربية

*'nā 'drus al'arabiyyh*  
"I'm studying Arabic."

Note: There is no verb "to be" in this sentence.

The verb "to be" does exist in Arabic, but it's only used in future, past, and habitual sentences. When using the language, you need to picture that it's there, since in many cases, where you visualize the verb "to be," is when the meaning of the sentence could change drastically.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Arabic Learners

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Most Arabic learners are in the USA and Europe, however, Japan, China, and Russia are

joining in with as much interest as the rest. It's required in many political careers, trading and commerce, education, and living in the Arabic countries, plus it helps having a big number of Arabic people living in other countries. Since, Arabic is a Semitic language, which means a background knowledge of Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish, it would be helpful in learning Arabic. Arabic is very different than English, however, as part of the changes that have happened recently, more foreign words, many which are from English, are used in the Arabic language. For example, most technology related words we say in English: computer, laptop, cell, mobile, CD, DVD.

In Egyptian Arabic, we may use an English word in speech from time to time, for example, *da kwayis*. So *'ayza tany* means, "That's good, so I want more," and the "so" is kept in English. Also, from the influence of media, for example, a word like "cancel" would be *ana ha-cancel*, which means, "I will cancel." This doesn't usually happen in Standard Arabic.

## LESSON NOTES

# Basic Bootcamp #3

## Useful Phrases for Learning Arabic

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# 3

## EGYPTIAN ARABIC

1. سايمون: أستاذة، ازاي أقول \* I don't understand this \* بالعربي ؟
2. هالة: أنا مش فاهم "and to say this" , ده .
3. سايمون: مرة ثانية ، بالراحة ، لو سمحتي .
4. هالة: أنا مش فاهم.
5. سايمون: لو سمحتي إكتبيها .

## VOWELLED EGYPTIAN ARABIC

1. سَايْمُونُ: أَسْتَاذَةٌ، إِزَايَ أَقُولُ \* I don't understand \* بِالْعَرَبِيِّ ؟
2. هَالَةٌ: أَنَا مِش فَاهِمَةٌ "and to say this" , دِه .
3. سَايْمُونُ: مَرَّةً تَانِيَّةً ، بِالرَّاحَةِ ، لَوْ سَمَّحْتِ (ي) .
4. هَالَةٌ: أَنَا مِش فَاهِمَةٌ.
5. سَايْمُونُ: لَوْ سَمَّحْتِي ، إِكْتَبِيهَا .

## EGYPTIAN ROMANIZATION

1. SAĀĪMUŪN: `ustaāḡah, `izzāi `aquūl \* I don't understand \* bil'aarbiīi ?

CONT'D OVER

2. HAAL-AH: 'anaā miš faāhimah "and to say "this, dih.
3. SAĀĪMUŪN: marh taāniyah, bilrāḥah, laū samaḥt (ī).
4. HALAH: 'anaā miš fāhmah.
5. SAĀĪMUŪN: laū samaḥtī , iktibihaā

## ENGLISH

1. SIMON: Professor, how can I say "I don't understand" in Arabic?
2. HALA: I don't understand. And to say "this", this.
3. SIMON: Another time, slowly please.
4. HALA: I don't understand.
5. SIMON: Please write it down.

## VOCABULARY

Arabic	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
إزاي	'izzāy	how (Egyptian Arabic)	question word	
بالراحة	bilrāḥah	slowly (Egyptian Arabic)	adverb	neutral
أنا	'nā	I / I am	subject pronoun	first person (m, f)

تانية	tānyah	another, second (Egyptian Arabic)	adjective	feminine
مرة	marrah	one time (Egyptian Arabic)	phrase	feminine
أنا فاهم	'anā fāhim	I understand. (Egyptian Arabic)	phrase	masculine
لو سمحتي	law samaḥṭi	please, if you don't mind, excuse me (Egyptian Arabic)	phrase	feminine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>إزاي أقول أنا مش فاهم ؟ `izzāy `a`ul `nā miš fāhim ?</p> <p>How can I say I don't understand? (Egyptian Arabic)</p>	<p>مرة تانية بالراحة. marrah tānyah bilrāḥah.</p> <p>One more time (again), slowly. (Egyptian Arabic)</p>
<p>أنا مبسوطه النهاردة . `nā mabsūṭah al-nahārdah .</p> <p>I'm happy today. (Egyptian Arabic)</p>	<p>مرة تانية بالراحة. marrah tānyah bilrāḥah.</p> <p>One more time (again), slowly. (Egyptian Arabic)</p>
<p>ممکن تقولها مرة تانية , لو سمحت ؟ mumkin ti`ūlhā marrah tānyah , law samaḥṭ ?</p> <p>Can you say it again, please? (Egyptian Arabic)</p>	<p>أنا فاهم كويس . 'anā fāhim kuwayyis .</p> <p>I understand well. (Egyptian Arabic)</p>

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لو سمحتي , أنا مش فاهم .

law samaḥtī , `nā miš fāhim .

Excuse me, I don't understand. (Egyptian Arabic)

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## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson is Getting Someone's Attention**

**"Professor, how can I say, "I don't understand," in Arabic?"**

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Yā is a common article we use to get somebody's attention. We rarely call or address someone without it.

For example, to say يا أستاذ (yā `ust āḍ) means, "Mr." or "Professor."

Yā ḥmad = Ahmed ..... ( "hi Ahmed" ..... ).

It's used in both formal and informal situations.

To say, "Excuse me," or "Pardon me," the phrase is *law samaht* for a man, and *law samahti* for a woman.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Addressing Arabic People

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Using the word أستاذ ( `ust āḍ) is a must when addressing teachers or talking to any one in formal forms. It means "professor," and "Mr." or "Ms." It can either be followed by the person's name or said by itself. It's a very respectful form for addressing people.

In Arabic, it's more common to use the first name when addressing people. Even in a formal situation the middle or last name is rarely used.

## LESSON NOTES

# Basic Bootcamp #4

## Counting 1 to 100

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# 4



# EGYPTIAN ARABIC

1. واحد

2. إثنين

3. ثلاثة

4. أربعة

5. خمسة

6. ستة

7. سبعة

8. ثمانية

9. تسعة

10. عشرة

11. أربع عشر

12. عشرين

13. خمسين

CONT'D OVER

1. ستة و ستين  
4

1. ثمانين  
5

1. أربعة و تسعين  
6

1. مئة  
7

## VOWELLED EGYPTIAN ARABIC

1. واحد

2. اثنان

3. ثلاثة

4. أربعة

5. خمسة

6. ستة

7. سبعة

8. ثمانية

CONT'D OVER

9. تِسْعَة

1. عَشْرَة  
0

1. أَرْبَعَاتَشَرَ  
1

1. عِشْرِينَ  
2

1. ثَمَانِينَ  
3

1. مِئَة  
4

## EGYPTIAN ROMANIZATION

1. waḥid
2. 'itnīn
3. talāth
4. 'arba'h
5. ḥamsah
6. settah

CONT'D OVER

7. sab‘ah
8. tamanyah
9. tis‘ah
10. ‘ašarah
11. ‘arba‘-tā-šar
12. ‘iṣrīn
13. ḥamsīn
14. sittah wa sittīn
15. tamānīn
16. ‘arba‘h wa tis‘īn
17. miyyh

## ENGLISH

1. one
2. two
3. three

CONT'D OVER

4. four
5. five
6. six
7. seven
8. eight
9. nine
10. ten
11. fourteen
12. twenty
13. fifty
14. sixty six
15. eighty
16. ninety four
17. one hundred

## VOCABULARY

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Arabic	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
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ثمانية	ṭamānīyah	eight	noun	feminine
أربعة عشر	'rba'at 'ašr	fourteen	noun	neutral
سبعة عشر	sab'at 'ašr	seventeen	noun	neutral
ثمانية عشر	ṭamānīyat 'ašr	eighteen	noun	neutral
عشرون	'išrūn	twenty	noun	neutral
خمسون	ḥamsūn	fifty	noun	neutral
ثمانون	ṭamānūn	eighty	noun	neutral
مئة	mi'ah	one hundred	noun	neutral
نقود	nuqūd	money	noun	feminine
ربع	rub'	quarter	noun	masculine singular
ثلاثة عشر	ṭalāṭat 'ašr	thirteen	noun	neutral
إثني عشر	'iṭnaā 'ašr	twelve	number	neutral
أحد عشر	'aḥada 'ašr	eleven	number	neutral
واحد	wāḥid	one	noun	masculine
سبعة	sab'ah	seven	noun	feminine
أربعة	'arba'ah	four	noun	feminine
ثلاثة	ṭlāṭah	three	noun	feminine
ستة	sittah	six	noun	feminine
خمسة	ḥamsah	five	noun	feminine
إثنان	'iṭnān	two	noun	feminine
تسعة	tis'ah	nine	noun	feminine
عشرة	'ašrah	ten	noun	feminine
نصف	niṣf	half	noun	neutral

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>أريد ثمانية كيلو غرامات من الموز 'urīd ṭamāniyat kilūgrāmāt min al-mawz</p> <p>I want 8 kilos of bananas.</p>	<p>لدي أربعة عشر كتاباً ladayy 'rba'at 'ašr kitāban</p> <p>I have 14 books.</p>
<p>في فصلي يوجد سبعة عشر طالباً fi faṣlī yūḡad sab'at 'ašr ṭāliban</p> <p>In my class there are 17 students.</p>	<p>صديقي عمره ثمانية عشر سنوات ṣadiqī 'umruh ṭamāniyat 'ašr sanawāt</p> <p>My friend is eighteen years old.</p>
<p>عمرى عشرون سنة 'umrī 'iṣrūn sanah</p> <p>I'm twenty years old.</p>	<p>في فصلي يوجد خمسون فتاة fi faṣlī yūḡad ḥamsūn fatāh</p> <p>In my class there are 50 girls.</p>
<p>أنا في مصر لمدة ثمانون يوماً 'nā fi miṣr limuddat ṭamānūn yawman</p> <p>I'm in Egypt for 80 days.</p>	<p>الحساب مئة؟ هذا كثير al-ḥisāb mi'ah? hādā kaṭīr</p> <p>The check is 100? That's a lot.</p>
<p>النقود في المحفظة al-nuqūd fi al-maḥfaẓah</p> <p>The money is in the wallet.</p>	<p>الحساب جنيهاً و ربع al-ḥisāb ḡunayhan wa rub'</p> <p>The check is 2 pounds and one quarter.</p>
<p>أخي عمره ثلاثة عشر سنوات 'ḥī 'umruh ṭalātat 'ašr sanawāt</p> <p>My brother is thirteen years old.</p>	<p>هناك إثني عشر طالب في صفي hunāk 'itnā 'ašr ṭal-ib fā ṣaffī</p> <p>There are twelve students in my class.</p>
<p>عمرى أحد عشر سنة 'umrī 'aḥada 'ašr sanah</p> <p>I am eleven years old.</p>	<p>لدي كتاب واحد للغة العربية ladayy kitābun wāḥid lilluḡah al-'arabiyyah</p> <p>I have one book for Arabic.</p>
<p>الحساب سبع دولارات al-ḥisāb saba' dūlārāt</p> <p>The check is 7 dollars.</p>	<p>أريد أربعة فناجين قهوة 'rīd 'rba'ah fanāḡīn qahwah</p> <p>I want 4 cups of coffee.</p>

<p>هل يمكننا أن نأخذ ثلاثة أكواب شاي ؟ hal yumkinunā `n n`ḥuḍ ṭalātat `kwāb šāy ?</p> <p>Can we have 3 cups of tea?</p>	<p>هل يمكنني أن أخذ ستة أكواب ماء ؟ hal yumkinunī `n `āḥuḍ sittat `kwāb mā ` ?</p> <p>Can I have 6 glasses of water?</p>
<p>هل يمكننا أن نأخذ خمسة أكواب عصير؟ hal yumkinunā `n n`ḥuḍ ḥamsat `kwāb `aṣīr?</p> <p>Can we have 5 cups of juice?</p>	<p>الحساب إثنان جنيهاً al-ḥisāb `itnān ġunayhan</p> <p>The check is 2 pounds.</p>
<p>المسافة الى بيتي تسعة كيلومترات al-masāfah `ilā baytī tis`at kiylūmitrāt</p> <p>To my house it's 9 kilometers.</p>	<p>الحساب عشرة يورو al-ḥisāb `ašrah yūrū</p> <p>The check is 10 euros.</p>
<p>ثمن الكتاب خمسة جنيهاً و نصف ṭaman al-kitāb ḥamsat ġunayhāt wa niṣf</p> <p>The price of the book is 5 and a half pounds.</p>	

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Forming Arabic Numbers 1-100

مئة, miyyah

#### "one hundred"

To form Arabic numbers, the easiest way is to memorize numbers 3 to 9. After that, it's a matter of pattern. 11 and 12 are different in many languages, why should Arabic be any different?

The pattern works as follows:

To form the teens, we add تاسع (tāšar-) at the end of the number. This goes for numbers 13 to 19.

To form the tens, we add ين (īn-). This goes for numbers 30 to 90.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT



## Egyptian Currency

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The currency in Egypt is the Egyptian pound. At the moment, there's a wide diversity of bills: quarter, half, one, five, ten, twenty, fifty, one hundred, and two hundred. Bills such as the quarter and half pound are still good to know since they're still in use.

## LESSON NOTES

# Basic Bootcamp #5

## Counting From 100 to 10,000

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# 5

# EGYPTIAN ARABIC

1. مئة

2. مئتان

3. أربعمئة و سبعون

4. ستمئة واحد و عشرون

5. ألف

6. ثلاثة آلاف خمسمئة و تسعون

7. سبعة آلاف ثمانمئة و ثمانون

8. عشرة آلاف

# VOWELLED EGYPTIAN ARABIC

1. مِئَة

2. مِئَتَان

3. أَلْف

4. عِشْرَة أَلْف

5. أَرْبَعُمِئَة و سَبْعُون

CONT'D OVER

6. ستُمئة واحد و عِشرون

7. ثلاثة آلاف خمسُمئة و تسعون

8. سبعة آلاف ثمانُمئة و ثمانون

## EGYPTIAN ROMANIZATION

1. mi'ah
2. mi'atān
3. 'alf
4. 'ašrat-'alāf
5. 'arba'u wa sab'ūn
6. sittumi'h waḥid wa 'iṣrūn
7. ṭalāṭat-'alāf ḥamsumi'ah wa tis'ūn
8. sab'at-'alāf ṭamānumi'ah wa ṭamānūn

## ENGLISH

1. one hundred

CONT'D OVER

2. two hundred
3. four hundred and seventy
4. six hundred and twenty-one
5. one thousand
6. three thousand five hundred and ninety
7. seven thousand eight hundred and eighty
8. ten thousand

## VOCABULARY

Arabic	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
غالي	gālī	expensive	adjective	masculine
تسعمئة	tis'umi'ah	nine hundred	number	feminine
ثمانمئة	ṭamānumi'ah	eight hundred	noun	feminine
سبعمئة	sub'umi'ah	seven hundred	number	feminine
ستمئة	sittumi'ah	six hundred	number	feminine
خمسمة	ḥamsumi'ah	five hundred	number	feminine
أربعمئة	'aba'umi'ah	four hundred	number	feminine
ثلاثمئة	ṭalātumi'ah	three hundred	number	feminine
مئتان	mi'atān	two hundred	noun	neutral
مئة	mi'ah	one hundred	noun	neutral

طعام	ṭa'ām	food	noun	masculine
ألف	'alf	one thousand	noun	neutral

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>الكتاب غالي</p> <p>al-kitāb ḡālī</p> <p>The book is expensive.</p>	<p>لدى تسعمئة دولار</p> <p>ladayy tis'umi'at dūlār</p> <p>I have 900 dollars.</p>
<p>ليس لدى ثمانمئة يورو</p> <p>laysa ladayy ṭamānumi'at yūrū</p> <p>I don't have 800 euros.</p>	<p>إيجار البيت سبعمئة</p> <p>īḡār albait sub'umi'ah</p> <p>The rent for the house is 700.</p>
<p>ثمان الساعة ستمئة جنيهاً</p> <p>ṭaman assā'h sittumi'at ḡunayhan</p> <p>The price of the watch is 600 pounds.</p>	<p>ثمان الهاتف خمسمئة يورو</p> <p>ṭaman alhātif ḡamsumi'at yūrū</p> <p>The price of the phone is 500 euros.</p>
<p>في المدرسة أربعمئة طالب</p> <p>fi-lmadrash 'aba'umi'at ṭālib</p> <p>There are 400 students at the school.</p>	<p>الطائرة بها ثلاثمئة راكب</p> <p>al-ṭā'irah bihā ṭalāṭumi'at rākib</p> <p>There are 300 passengers on the plane.</p>
<p>ثمان الحقيبة مئتان</p> <p>ṭaman al-ḡaḡībah mi'atān</p> <p>The price of the bag is 200.</p>	<p>لا أريد الكثير، مئة فقط</p> <p>lā 'urīd alkaṭīr, mi'ah faqaṭ</p> <p>I don't want a lot, only 100.</p>
<p>هذا طعام شهوي</p> <p>haḡā ṭa'ām šahī</p> <p>This is delicious food.</p>	<p>في الجامعة ألف طالب</p> <p>fi al-ḡāmi'ah 'alf ṭālib</p> <p>There are a 1000 students at the university.</p>

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is Forming Arabic Numbers 100-10,000

سبعة آلاف ثمانمئة وثمانون

sab‘at--’alāf ṭ amānumi’ h wa ṭ amānūn

"seven thousand, eight hundred-eighty"

---

To form the Arabic numbers, the easiest way is to memorize numbers 3 to 9. After that, it's a matter of patterns used. 1000 and 2000 are different, the rest have a pattern.

The pattern works as follows:

To form the thousands we pronounce [t] at the end of the original number, then add ’alāf (آلاف -), this goes from 3,000 to 10,000.

To form the hundreds, we add an extra [u] sound at the end of numbers 300 to 900, then the word "hundred," - mi’ h (- مئة) itself, so we basically say 3 + 100 or 7 + 100 and so on.

The word "hundred" is mi’ h (- مئة) and "200" is mi’ atān (- مئتان).

If you want to pronounce the numbers in a more correct way (grammatically), you should always add *wa*, which means, "and," between each number and the next one.

### For Example:

1. *’If wa mi’ h wa setth wa sab’ ūn.*  
"1176"

Here you can check the other numbers:

Voweled Arabic	Romanization	English Translation
مِئَة	<i>mi'ah</i>	100
مِئَتَانِ	<i>mi'atān</i>	200
ثَلَاثُمِئَة	<i>talātumi'ah</i>	300
أَرْبَعُمِئَة	<i>rba'umi'ah</i>	400
خَمْسُمِئَة	<i>ḥamsumi'ah</i>	500
سِتْمِئَة	<i>sittumi'ah</i>	600
سَبْعُمِئَة	<i>sab'umi'ah</i>	700
ثَمَانِمِئَة	<i>tamānumi'ah</i>	800
تِسْعُمِئَة	<i>tis'umi'ah</i>	900
أَلْف	<i>'alf</i>	1000
أَلْفَانِ	<i>'alfān</i>	2000
ثَلَاثَة أَلْف	<i>talātat-'alāf</i>	3000
أَرْبَعَة أَلْف	<i>'arba'at-'alāf</i>	4000
خَمْسَة أَلْف	<i>ḥamsat-'alāf</i>	5000
سِتَة أَلْف	<i>sittat-'alāf</i>	6000
سَبْعَة أَلْف	<i>sab'at-'alāf</i>	7000
ثَمَانِيَة أَلْف	<i>tamāniyat--'alāf</i>	8000



تسعة آلاف	<i>tis'at-'alāf</i>	9000
عشرة آلاف	<i>'ašrat-'alāf</i>	10000
أربعمئة و سبعون	<i>'arba'u wa sab'ūn</i>	470
ستمئة واحد و عشرون	<i>sittumi'h waḥid wa 'iṣrūn</i>	621
ثلاثة آلاف خمسمئة و تسعون	<i>talāṭat-'alāf ḥamsumi'ah wa tis'ūn</i>	3590
سبعة آلاف ثمانمئة و ثمانون	<i>sab'at-'alāf ṭamānumi'ah wa ṭamānūn</i>	7880

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Eating Out in Egypt

An average meal in Egypt would cost below one hundred Egyptian pounds, depending on the place and meal. A fancy meal could cost all the way up to three hundred, however, the same meal could cost much cheaper at another place.

LESSON NOTES

# All About #1

# The History of the Arabic Language

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2 Grammar

# 1

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is the Top Five Reasons to Learn Arabic

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### Background of the Arabic Language

Arabic is a Semitic languages, related to Hebrew and Aramaic, that has been spoken for over 1700 years. It comes from the North of the Arabic peninsula known today as the gulf area, which consists of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and several other countries.

Because it came from the Arabic peninsula about 1500 years ago, it is now spoken in all Arabic countries in the Middle East and North Africa. There are 280 million native speakers of Arabic, and it is spoken in several different places in the world, including countries such as Turkey, Chad, Senegal and Mali. Arabic is now mainly spoken in Egypt, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Algeria, Mauritania, Western Sahara, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan. Arabic came to these countries during their Islamic openings and the spread of Islamic culture, which makes all Arabic countries Islamic. However, this does not mean that everyone who speaks Arabic is a Muslim.

Classical Arabic, which is the language of the Holy Quran, is very old and is said to have no changes to its original form. The Modern Standard Arabic is much easier when it comes to vocabulary and grammar, and also much easier for the man on the street to understand.

### Why is it Important?

So why should you learn Arabic? The top 5 reasons are...

1. Arabic is the fifth most commonly spoken native language in the world
2. Arabic is an official language of the UN
3. There is a high demand for but a low number of speakers of Arabic in the Western world
4. There are financial incentives, as Arabic-speaking nations are a fast growing market for trade
5. Arabic is the liturgical language of Islam

LESSON NOTES

# All About #2

## Learn the Arabic Writing System

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2 Grammar

# 2

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is the Arabic Writing System

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Arabic uses the Arabic alphabet as its writing system. The Arabic alphabet originated from Aramaic, and although Arabic inscriptions appear most commonly after the birth of Islam in the seventh century, the origin of the Arabic alphabet lies deeper in time.

The Nabataeans, who established a kingdom in what is modern-day Jordan from the second century B.C., were Arabs. They wrote with a highly cursive Aramaic-derived alphabet that would eventually evolve into the Arabic alphabet. The Nabataeans endured until the year 106 A.D., when they were conquered by the Romans.

Nabataean inscriptions continue to appear until the fourth century A.D., coinciding with the first inscriptions in the Arabic alphabet, which are also found in Jordan.

The Arabic alphabet is used in Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Pashto, Baloch, Malay, Hausa in West Africa, Mandinka, Swahili in East Africa, Balti, Brahui, Panjabi in Pakistan, Kashmiri, Sindhi in India and Pakistan, Arwi in Sri Lanka, Uyghur in China, Kazakh in China, Kyrgyz in China, Azerbaijani in Iran, Kurdish in Iraq and Iran, and the language of the former Ottoman Empire.

In order to accommodate the needs of these other languages, new letters and other symbols have been added to the original alphabet.

The spoken dialects are used to communicate verbally while standard Arabic is used in the written form.

### Alphabet

The Arabic alphabet consists of three vowels and twenty-eight consonants. In total there are twenty-eight characters.

Arabic does not have words written with separate letters, which is why each letter has three forms: beginning, medial, and end, plus the isolated form.

If you know the Arabic alphabet, Hebrew, Amharic, Persian, and Turkish may be easier to understand and learn also, mainly because these come from the same family, or use the same alphabet system, also there is a lot of common words between them, so it all connects.

LESSON NOTES

# All About #3

## Learn Arabic Grammar

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2 Grammar

# 3

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Arabic Grammar

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English is an SVO language: subject verb object.

For example, I eat fruit: subject = I, verb = eat, object = fruit

Arabic has the same grammar structure as English. For example, I eat fruit.

أنا آكل فاكهة

Subject = I

Verb = eat

Object = fruit

أنا = ضمير شخصي ، بأكل = فعل ، فاكهة = مفعول به

'anā = Subject pronoun, bākul= Verb, fākha= Object

In Arabic there are two kinds of sentences:

1. Verbal sentence: This type of sentence starts with the verb and the subject follows. The verb is always in singular form even if the subject is dual or plural. The verb can also come after the subject, which, in this case, must agree with the subject (single, dual, plural). Also, it must agree in gender (masculine and feminine).
2. Nominal sentence: A sentence that starts with a noun. The nominal sentence normally starts with a definite noun. The first noun is then followed by another noun that is indefinite.

Now, there's some good news and bad news.

### The Bad News

English verbs are different only in the third person of the present tense. Other tenses remain the same for all pronouns. In Arabic, the verb will be conjugated according to the person. This

means that every subject gets a different verb form, which means that the subject does not necessarily need to be mentioned. This is similar to languages such as French, Spanish and Italian.

## The Good News

English has three simple tenses: present, past, future. Arabic has two main tenses: the perfect tense, and the imperfect tense, which is also known as present tense.

## Other Tips

*Gender:* Arabic has two genders, expressed by pronominal as well as by verbal agreement. Agreement with numerals shows a peculiar 'polarity'. The genders are usually referred to as masculine and feminine, but the situation is more complicated than that. The 'feminine' gender is also used to express 'singulatives'.

*Plural:* In Arabic, there are two types of noun and adjective plural forms: sound (regular) plurals, and broken (irregular) plurals. Masculine sound plural nouns end in "ūn" and feminine sound plural nouns end in "āt".

*Pronouns:* Pronouns in Arabic belong to the category of "nouns." Therefore, everything that applies to nouns will apply to them. Pronouns have genders, numbers, and grammatical case. Pronouns are always definite nouns. Pronouns in Arabic are divided into four categories:

Subject Pronouns: Separate Subject Pronouns, Attached Subject Pronouns

Object Pronouns: Separate Object Pronouns, Attached Object Pronouns

*Conjugation:* Conjugation is all about how verbs change between sentences depending on a number of factors. The three most important factors in Arabic are person, gender, and number. In Arabic there are three numbers; singular, dual, and plural (where plural means more than two). In Arabic, words have gender which affects conjugation of the verb.



LESSON NOTES

# All About #4

## Learn Arabic Pronunciation

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2 Grammar

# 4

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Arabic Pronunciation

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Comparatively speaking, Arabic is relatively difficult for those who are learning from English because the grammar construction, writing, and pronunciation are very different. As a quick review of the basics, the Arabic alphabet consists of twenty-eight characters. Arabic consists of simple syllables usually formed by a consonant and a vowel that is short or long.

There are three short vowels, and three long vowels in Arabic. The short vowel *fatHa* is like a short *a* sound, as in in the words *curtain* or *jacket*. If it's a long vowel, the *a* is pronounced like the *aa* in *man* or *fan*. It can also be an *ai* sound like in *train* or *frame*; it's very light, but extended, or a little deep like *dawn*.

The second short vowel is *kasra*, and it's a small *e* or *i* sound, found in words like *pen*, *men* or *friends*, and the compound sound of *ie* as in *friends*, or *pill*, the long vowel that has *ya* as its equivalent. It's an extended *ee* sound, heard in words like *tree*, *free*, *meet*, *treat*, *heat* and more.

The third and last short vowel is *Damma*, which is a small *u* or *o* sound, such as in *column* or *potato*. The equivalent long vowel for it will be giving a longer *oo* or *uu* sound such as *moon*, *raccoon*, or *blue* and *true*.

There are some unique and interesting points about Arabic pronunciation, such as:

1. Shadda: a linguistic term to indicate when a letter is doubled and stressed while pronounced, but only written once, with this symbol on top of it, to indicate that it's stressed. If the stress is not pronounced, it's very much likely that you will end up saying a completely different word.

For example: ḥammām: bathroom

ḥamām: pidgins

2. The long vowel and short vowel: Each of the three Arabic vowels has long and short versions. The long version comprises two syllables, and so, in accordance with rule one (Shadda), the long version is nearly twice as long as the short one.

For example: ʿālam: world

ʿalam: flag

3. The silent letters: In certain cases the consonant doesn't have any sound like *ba*, *bu*; it will be more like b, and when the latter carries a small circle on top of it, this indicates that it is silent and takes no sound at all. In theory, written Arabic will always have these short vowels, silent or stress symbols, but that doesn't happen very often. The good news is that you can start learning how to read correct Arabic without having to depend on the short vowels.

LESSON NOTES

# All About #5

## Top 5 Must-Know Arabic Phrases

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- 2 Arabic
- 2 Grammar

# 5

# ARABIC

1. tafaddal تفضل

2. shukran jazilan شكراً جزيلاً

3. min fadlik من فضلك

4. Ahlan wasahlan - marhaban أهلاً وسهلاً \_ مرحباً

5. ma' al salaama مع السلامة

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is the Top Five Must-Know Arabic Phrases

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1. *tafaḍḍal* is the most versatile phrase you will come across. You can use it to say "please come in," "please join me for food or drink" or to give permission: "you may leave/ talk etc."

It can also be used when giving an item to a person, like if you're asked to give someone a pen, or you're giving the waiter the money for the check or even offering something to someone.

2. *šukran jazīlan*: "thank you very much." And *jazakum allahu khayran*, which literally means "may God reward you all that is good."

When someone helps you, or offers you something, you can always use this expression; it will show how much you appreciate what they are doing, and that you are very grateful for it .

The next two expressions will help you ask for or refuse anything you like.

3. *Min Faḍlak* ("Excuse me / pardon / please"): when addressing a male, *min faḍlik* when addressing a female and *min Faḍlukum* when addressing a group of people. *La, Shukran* means "No thank you."

4. *'hlan wa sahlān / marḥaban*: "Hello and welcome." You can use it both as a greeting and a reply.

5. *ma'a assalāmh / araka ( kī – kum ) laHiqan*: "goodbye" literally it means "be with safety" and the second "see you later" you just need to make sure to use the right form when addressing a male, female or a group of people.

The same five phrases, but in the Egyptian dialect, are:

1. *'itfaḍḍal - 'itfaḍḍalī - 'itfaḍḍalū*
2. *šukran gazilan – šukran – 'lf šukr*
3. *min faḍlak –min faḍlik – min faḍlukū*
4. *'hlan wa sahlān – 'hlan – ma'a esaalāmh*
5. *'šufak – 'šufik - 'šufkū bukrh*

LESSON NOTES

# All About #6

## Can You Answer These 5 Questions About Egypt?

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2 Grammar

# 6

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is to Test Your Knowledge of Egypt

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This lesson will build your basic knowledge of Egypt by quizzing you on five areas: geography, pop culture, travel, economics and myth busting.

### 1. Geography

Egypt has twenty-nine provinces.

Q: Is Luxor:

a) a city b) a province c) a small city that is like a village and follows a governor?

A: Luxor is a city, but it is treated administratively as a province. In 2008, two more provinces were added and some changes have been made to the borders of the cities.

### *Weather*

Egypt does not receive much rainfall except in the winter months. Temperatures average between 80°F (27°C), and 90°F (32°C) in the summer, and up to 109°F (43°C) on the Red Sea coast. Temperatures average between 55°F (13°C) and 70°F (21°C) in the winter. A steady wind from the northwest helps hold down the temperature near the Mediterranean coast. However, the *Khamaseen* is a wind that blows from the south in Egypt in the spring, bringing sand and dust, and sometimes raising the temperature in the desert to more than 100°F (38°C).

### 2. Pop culture

Q: Three people will be named. Which is the famous singer, which the politician and which the sports star. Match the name with person.

Ahmed Mido, Amr Diab, and Mohammed Hasaniin Haykal.

A:

- Ahmed Mido: Football player



- Amr Diab: Singer
- Mohammed Hasaniin Haykal: Politician

### 3. Travel

Q: Rank in correct order the most popular travel destinations in Egypt.

a) Sharm El-Shaikh b) Luxor and Aswan c) Cairo

A:

1. Luxor and Aswan
2. Cairo
3. Sharam el-shaikh

### 4. Economics

Q: What are the biggest resources for Egypt economically? What provides the biggest yearly income?

A:

1. Tourism
2. The Suez Canal. It is a large contributor to the Egyptian economy
3. The agriculture in general

### 5. Myth Busting

Pharaoh's curse: it was said that people who opened a Pharaoh's tomb were cursed. People who were involved in the discovery of Tut-Ankh-Amon's tomb died from mysterious illnesses. However, many of them also lived long lives.

LESSON NOTES

# All About #7

## Top 5 Egyptian Dishes You Have to Try and Top 5 Dishes For The Really Brave!

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2 Grammar

# 7

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is the Top Five Egyptian Foods

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### Egyptian Cuisine

Most people are already familiar with *Kabab* and *Kufta*, the famous grilled meat with Arabic spices, but Egypt has a rich food culture. In fact, we could do a fifty-part series on the topic, but we are just going to give you an overview here.

Egyptian food is mostly vegetable-, spice- and meat-based. A large amount of seafood is also consumed. There is also a wide variety of rice and vegetable dishes, soup, chicken and fish dishes.

In an average day most Egyptians eat rice and meat or chicken. Recently, even though American junk food (fast food) has found its way to Egyptian culture, the traditional dishes and family cooking are considered to be the best.

All ingredients used in the Egyptian cuisine are healthy (vegetables, meat, chicken, fish, salad of all kinds, and more) but the Egyptian cuisine may not be that healthy sometimes, due to the huge amount of cholesterol consumed in every meal.

A mix between so many dishes in one meal, on the long run, may not be that good for the health.

### The Regional Dishes

There are four main regional dishes in Egypt, and the flavors vary from hot and spicy, rich and fatty, grilled and fried, to rare steamed. Rich and fatty is found all around Egypt, while grilled and fried is found more around the coastal area, as fish is mostly cooked in these ways. Bedouins in the desert like grilling their food, and steamed food is mostly found around big cities such as Cairo and Alexandria, because they are home to the big international restaurants.

Egyptian kitchens always use fresh vegetables, lots of spices, and butter or ghee, plus meat. The presentation of the food is extremely important!

The taste is also very important. Desserts are a very important part of the meal, and they are usually eaten after each meal.

## Popular Dishes

1. *Kuṣārī* is a very popular dish. It's rice cooked with lentil, macaroni added on top, tomato sauce, crispy fried onion and humus. It works great for everyone including vegetarians!
2. *Fūl* beans, and *ṭa'miyh*, beans with onions, parsley, coriander and more, all mixed together then fried as small balls and served with green salad and ṭaḥīnh salad. It's usually eaten at breakfast or dinner (lunch is the main meal).
3. *Maḥṣī* is probably one of the best and most popular dishes, the word means stuffed, basically rice, tomato, onion, parsley, coriander and spices, all put inside different vegetables such as cabbage, grape leaves, zucchini, pepper, eggplant and more, then cooked in chicken or meat stock.

## The Seasonal Dishes

1. *Fatḥ* is a meal made around the big feast. It consists of bread with rice on top of it, tomato sauce with garlic and vinegar, and a lot of meat.

Many people know or at least have heard once about our holy month, *Ramaḍān*. The first three days after is the small feast, and exactly seventy days after that is the big feast. It's when Muslims sacrifice a sheep, honoring the memory of prophet Abraham and his son Ishmael, who instead of sacrificing his son, sacrificed a sheep. That is why meat is so important, and there is plenty of it to go around!

## Table Etiquette

When being offered something, never say no, or it will be an insult to the host. Moreover, everything put on your plate must be finished. If not, it will be taken as a sign you don't like the food.

Complimenting the food after you first eat, and at the end of the meal is a very nice gesture.

## The Top 5 Egyptian Dishes

5. *Mulūḥiyh bil'rānib* (*mulukhiya* with rabbits)

4. *miṣa'h*, which is fried slices of eggplants, cooked with tomato sauce, a little onion and garlic, and sometimes minced meat. It's found everywhere in Egypt, but not in all Arabic countries, and if it is there, it's known as a very delicious Egyptian dish!

The *Mulukhiya* with rabbits is not really cheap, but *misa`h* is really cheap and found everywhere; you can also buy it as a sandwich.

### 3. Lentil soup

It's found in all restaurants—expensive or cheap—it's loved by everyone, and it is served in different ways, but mostly eaten during winter because it provides warmth. It is sometimes made into a meal with bread and meat.

2. Macaroni with *bašamil*. It is cooked macaroni, stacked in layers, with minced meat in the middle and very thick white sauce on top, then cooked in the oven. It's very healthy, inexpensive and found in many places.

1. *Maḥšī* (stuffed vegetables). Since it's so delicious, it's one of the meals that people say require family or friendly gathering. It's found in Lebanon as well and its other neighbors, but it is cooked differently there.

### Top 5 Foods for the Brave

5. *akāwī, kalawī* which is the animal's tail, cut in pieces and served with rice, and the kidneys. It's mostly found in common areas and can be sold in the street. Depending on the place it can be cheap or expensive.

4. *ilgawharh* and *illisān*, the eyes and tongue of the animal. Mostly people in very common areas where their food system is completely different eat this. It is an inexpensive dish.

3. *mumbār* which is the intestines stuffed with rice mixture cooked in boiled water then fried. It's a very popular and widely available meal that is eaten all over Egypt, and one that is not expensive at all. This dish is not as popular with younger generations.

2. *lahmit rās*, which is the animal head, with everything in it. This includes the eyes and tongue, which you have to ask for. Again, it's eaten in very common neighborhoods, many restaurants offer it, and it's sold in the street. In this case it's precooked and the vendor just fries it to give it the last extra touch.

1. *kiršh*, the animal stomach. People consider it to be very delicious, but it needs a lot of time preparing, which is another reason why you should always make sure you eat it at a well-known place.

All of these foods are widely available in common areas, and can be found in restaurants or cooked at home.

LESSON NOTES

# All About #8

## Top 5 Things You Need To Know About Egyptian Society

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2 Grammar

# 8

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is the Top Things You Need to Know About the Arabic-Speaking World

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### 1. Major Cities And How they Work

#### Cairo

Cairo is the capital of Egypt, and is located on the banks and islands of the Nile River in the north of Egypt. About twenty-six million people live in Cairo, which is why it's considered the most populous city in Africa, and one of the most populous in the world. You can see the pyramids and the Sphinx, the citadel and the hanging church, Cairo tower, and the river Nile! An old name for the city is "the city of the thousand minarets," because of the many mosques and minarets. If you ever go to a high point, take a look...despite the pollution, you will see minarets as far as the eye can go! Wherever you go, you will see Pharonic monuments, Coptic or Islamic, plus everything else in a modern city. The city is so vast it would take years to go through it all.

#### Luxor

Located in upper Egypt or southern Egypt, Luxor is home to nearly 390,000 people, and here you can see the temple of *Al-karnak*, or The Valley of the Kings and The Valley of the Queens. It's most famous for its historical and Pharonic monuments.

The Luxor museum and the mummification museum are simply amazing. Don't forget to go to Aswan as well; it's so close and just as beautiful.

#### Sharm Elshakik

This is a city situated on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula, in South Sinai Governorate. It's on the coastal strip between the Red Sea and Mount Sinai. The population is about 35,000 and In Sharm Elshaik you can enjoy beautiful beaches and sands, mountains and beautiful untouched nature. Sharm is also known for its much smaller coastal towns, such as Dahan and Noweiba. You can see Mount Sinai and Saint Catherine's monastery, and Ras Mohammed, one of the most beautiful natural parks in the world. It's also famous for scuba diving, wind surfing, and snorkeling.

#### People of Cairo

People from Cairo are generally very helpful, generous, open-minded, friendly, talkative, and sometimes a little curious. While in Cairo, you might feel a little overwhelmed at the beginning, as it may need some time to get used to. It is generally the city most connected to the rest of the world. It has always had a great location, facing the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea to the east, being easily connected to Asia, acting as the gateway to Africa and being not far from Europe. After the Suez Canal was built connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea things changed drastically. It opened in November 1869, allowing water transportation between Europe and Asia without navigating around Africa. The northern terminus is Port Said and the southern terminus is Port Tawfik at the city of Suez.

It's very common for people to come to Cairo and go from Egypt to other countries because the airfare is not expensive. There are also ships, boats, cars and buses available as methods of transportation. In a one month vacation, you can spend time in Egypt then visit two more countries using very little money. For students and expats who live in Egypt, studying is not hard at all. Sending and receiving things can also be done easily. Also, many things are inexpensive here; it doesn't cost much to enter the country and the cost of products is also very low. Cairo's location is really special, and yet it does not make it expensive; in fact, the complete opposite!

The general focus of the city is tourism, the economy, entertainment, culture, politics, and art, among others. People in Cairo speak the Egyptian dialect, which is the most widely spoken around the Arabic world. It comes from Standard Arabic, and has some effects from the Coptic language. It contains many English, French, Italian, Spanish, and Greek words because many Greeks and Italians live in Egypt, mostly in Cairo and Alexandria. Spanish influences are due to the cultural mix between the two civilizations. With current media sources, English was entered and used abundantly. Small differences in pronunciation can also be found throughout Egypt, with the exception of upper Egypt, which is a little bit secluded.

There is a big expat community from all over the world in Cairo as expected, since it's an important destination. Cairo is known as the sleepless city because in most places, shops, restaurants and cafes don't close, you will find a taxi at anytime, and it's a very safe city. You can go for a walk at 2 or 3 AM without the least bit of worry.

## **2. Egyptian Families**

Families in Egypt are traditional. Some common things you may hear about families are that the boys and girls don't leave the family house until they get married. The parents will always help them do that, by offering financial support or a place. Family ties are strong, and relations could carry over to very distant relatives. Anything less is viewed as bad behavior.



With that said, another thing you should know about Egyptian society is it's very easy to get used to and be part of.

The average family consist of a mother and father and around four children per household. In upper Egypt a larger household with eight to ten children is normal as well as an extended family. Single parent homes are not common, as when people get married it's very unlikely they will get a divorce, especially if a child is involved. If a divorce took place, the mother would move back with her family. Combined families are somewhat common, mostly these marriages take place between a widow and a man in the same situation. It could be that one has no children, so they make a family together. Government laws don't play a very big part in family marriages, although they require that everyone is registered in a family directory. Also, the bride's family could ask for certain things that the groom must provide. This could be very expensive or inexpensive. Marriages are absolutely expected for families: it would be impossible to have a family or have children without being married. This goes for the whole of Arabic/Islamic society, as well as minority groups.

### **Generational Trends**

Generally, the older generation and younger generation tend to do things differently. The older generations tend to be very patient, and harder-working than the younger generation. Traditionally, the older generations would have about four kids in the family. Eating together is the normal thing with the older generation and young. Values such as filial piety, hard work, and loyalty are important to the older generation, and they have been passed to the younger generations. The younger generations tend to do things their own way. These days, the younger generation would have around two children in their family. People still wear *Jalabiya* (traditional Arabic dress) in Egypt as well.

The majority of younger Egyptian or Arabic people will live with their parents until they get married. Getting an apartment and finding a place to live in is not very easy. An apartment may be little expensive and hard to find, so a couple could stay with the family after getting married, but that is not very common now.

### **3. Work Culture and Economy**

Egypt's economy is ranked 67 in the world and is strong in tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, and services. In Egypt, the work revolves around family businesses, corporate ladders, friendships, parental pressure and the status of an individual. Parents often pressure their children to go into certain fields of work and certain jobs have an appeal. The social status given by the job is very important as well. The benefits to this work style are that it

provides a decent steady income, a good social status, and gains the approval of so many people. The cons to this work style are that work is mostly found through family relations or friends, which makes it difficult to find work even if a person is qualified. Many people work in this way, preferring to have steady jobs that will secure the future, as opposed to high paying jobs. Things are changing nowadays, as market demands require certain people with very specific qualifications, so hard workers are getting better chances now.

#### **4. Egyptian Society**

Egyptian Society is very friendly and open minded, and families are important. Nowadays it's very common for women to work. Women have a very important role now which could be problematic at times if she makes more than her husband. This is because men are still considered to be the sole provider of the house. However, these views do not contradict with a women's freedom or position in anyway. This wouldn't effect having children either, as most marriages are done with a first goal of having children. If the mother works, she can manage to deal with both, since the laws and also families are helpful. Working late for women is not accepted in Arabic society, so most of the jobs would have working hours from morning till anytime before late afternoon. Anything requiring late work hours, such as night shifts or simply overtime, is usually done by men.

#### **5. Politics**

Egypt has a democratic political, system. People have the right to vote for the president and parliament members. The president chooses the ministers, and big government officials. Anyone who is interested in becoming a president can be run for presidency. It's a relatively new system, as before there was one choice only, and the voting was based on that. The last election, nearly four years ago, was the first to have many people running for president. The parliament members are elected by people, and the parliament members, who nominate themselves, don't have to be highly educated. In other words, they don't have to have a college education or even a high school education. It depends on how well they can serve the people who vote for them, and where they come from as well. For example, the nominated parliament members in higher society will probably have low education levels, but can be very honest, decent and hard working people. Since it's a very small society, closer to a family-oriented culture, education doesn't come first. However, since education is basically for free and available for all these days, the mentalities are changing and people understand more about politics now. Unfortunately, although people are interested in politics, the voting rate is very low.

LESSON NOTES

# All About #9

## Top 5 Important Dates in Egypt

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2 Grammar

# 9

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is the Top Five Important Dates in Egypt

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**5. Easter:** It's not a specific day, but always the Monday after Easter Sunday according to the Coptic calendar. This day is called *šam innisīm* in Arabic. It has been celebrated for nearly 4700 years and is an official holiday. This day was celebrated by the Pharonic people and is now celebrated by all Egyptians. It is the day when spring starts and Copts celebrate it in a religious way. It's part of a very long and ongoing tradition; people get together or go out, so it's a good opportunity to catch up with others, plus enjoy nature.

### Traditions and Rituals

Ever since it has been known, people have been doing the same: eat herring, coloring eggs, and going out to enjoy nature. With Copts it's the end of their fasting. They go out to open spaces such as parks or the Nile and eat outside, and kids play, parents chat, and in most cases, entire families go together. Young people go to the movies afterwards.

### Celebration of the Day

Between the Pharonic, Copts, and now Egyptians, it has been more or less the same. Only the name of the day has changed a little bit, but everything else remains as it was. Some foods people eat on this day include: herring (salted fish) with green onions, rocket and bread. It's really delicious!

**4. The prophet Mohamed's birthday:** it's never the same on the Gregorian calendar; it changes every year since it's calculated according to the moon. It's on the third month of Islamic Calendar, *Rabi al-Awal*. This day is called *il- Mūlid*. Nobody knows exactly when the first celebration of *Mūlid Al-Nabī* took place but we find it being celebrated during the *Fatimid* and *Ayyubid* Era when it was considered a big event attended by government officials and Muslim spiritual leaders. This is an official holiday.

Why was this holiday important to Arabic people a long time ago and why is it important nowadays? Though Muslims in general are aware of *Mūlid* not being a truly Islamic custom, it is still considered a happy occasion when families and friends spend time together and eat good food. It's more of a reason to get together now.

### Traditions and Rituals

The program of events follows tradition rather than religious obligations. Preparation for the *Mūlid* commences days earlier by the *Mawāliidiyh*, which are groups of people travelling from one *Mūlid* to the other providing the more "social" services. They put up the swings, cafes and booths selling sweets, toys and clothes. The lighting installments, loud speakers and traders increase daily along with the number of visitors coming from different parts of the country for the special occasion. The highlight of a *Mūlid* is the *il-Ilīlh il-Kibīrh* or the Big Night, the last day of celebration. The Sufis and Sheiks dressed in colorful costumes (like *galabiyh*) will be at their most energetic, parading through the streets and performing the *dīkr* ritual dance: swaying back and forth, moving their bodies and speeding up to the rhythmic beating of a drum and tambourine while the *Munšidīn* singers perform the devotional chants. Prayers, music and singing from different tents fill the night air till dawn.

### Celebration of the Day

Mostly, people try to visit one of the big mosques of the prophet's descendants. If these are too far away, any big mosque which hold the celebration ritual is great.

The food people eat on this day includes *ḥalāwit il- Mūlid*, special sweets offered during *Mūlid*; *ḥummuṣ* (chick peas); and most of all *rousset il- Mūlid*, a candy doll for the children. People just love desserts, and this is a great opportunity to eat all you want with no guilt.

Some phrases associated with the day include *Kul sanh we intaī tayyib/h*, which is basically in any event that takes place once a year, such as birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, Easter, and prophets' birthdays.

**3. Christmas:** Egyptian Orthodox Christians or Coptic Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on January 7, a date equivalent to the twenty-ninth day of the Coptic month of *kiohk*, or *Khiahk*. Of course, in many other countries Christmas is celebrated on December 25, though celebrating Christmas on this date is not unique to the Copts.

The difference in the dates come from the difference between the Coptic and Gregorian calendars, for example, since March 1 of 2100 A.D., the Coptic Christmas has been celebrated on the eighth day of January in relation to the Western calendar. This day is called *īd il mīlād il magīd*. It has been celebrated the same way as it is everywhere else around the world, since nearly 400 A.D., and continues today. It is a holiday for Copts and Muslims.

### Traditions and Rituals

All Coptic feasts come after a period of fasting. They may eat normally, but the type of food that is consumed is limited to non-animal products. Therefore, meat, fish, eggs and milk are

forbidden. The fast leading up to Christmas is called "lent fasting" and it traditionally lasts for forty-three days, celebrating the forty days of fast, Christmas shopping at a Christmas Bazaar in Egypt, and the three days of fast associated with the miracle of moving the mountain of *El Moqattam*, a purely Egyptian event. Much of the Christmas celebration actually begins in the last week leading up to Christmas. This is when much of the cooking takes place, An Egyptian Christmas Card is produced on recycled paper and, like in the west, homes are decorated with lights and Christmas trees. Some Christmas trees are real, but many are artificial.

### **Celebration of the Day**

The Coptic Nativity is celebrated by a special midnight service in the church, followed by the ringing of the church's bells. Some Coptic Christians travel to various churches that are traditionally considered to be situated on the route of the Holy Family as they traveled through Egypt, but the largest service is held by the Coptic Pope in Saint Mark's, another Christmas scene cathedral in Cairo.

### **Christmas morning**

On Christmas morning, people visit friends and neighbors. Children are given *il ĩdiyyh*, a feast gift consisting of a small sum of money to buy sweets, toys and ice cream. This is also done in all religious celebrations.

### **Food**

Copts make special sweet biscuits for the Nativity that are decorated with a cross. In fact, it's the same *kaḥk* that Muslims make for *ĩd el fiṭr*. In the Egyptian Coptic church, a special bread called *Qurbān* is given to people during the service in the church and it is also available outside the church after the service. It is made in very large quantities for the big festivals. *Qurbān* bread is decorated with a cross in the middle, surrounded by twelve dots. Of course, those dots represent the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. After the service, families go home to break their fast and children receive new clothes and gifts. The meal is called *fathh*, and usually consists of meat and rice.

### **Clothing**

New clothes are worn to express happiness.

**2. Festival of Breaking the Fast, ĩd el fiṭr:** Although *ĩd el fiṭr* is always on the same day of the Islamic calendar, the first day of Shawwal, the tenth month of the lunar calendar, it's different every year on the Gregorian calendar, which falls approximately eleven days earlier each

successive year. *Īd* may also vary from country to country depending on whether the moon has been sighted or not. Muslims started celebrating this day during the days of prophet Muḥammad, as he told them it's a day to be celebrated and to be happy, which would be 1420 years ago. It's a three-day holiday in Egypt. Muslims are commanded by the Qur'an to complete their fast on the last day of Ramaḍān. It is celebrated after fasting the month of Ramaḍān as a matter of thanks and gratitude to Almighty Allah. It has no connection with any historical events nor is it related to the changes of seasons or cycles of agriculture. It is not a festival related in any way to worldly affairs. Its significance is purely spiritual. It is the day when the Muslims thank God for having given them the will, the strength and the endurance to observe fast and obey His commandment during the holy month of Ramaḍān.

## Traditions and Rituals

The *Īd* day starts with a small snack followed by *Īd* Prayers *ṣ alāt al-Īd* in a congregation attended by men, women, and children. Afterwards neighbors, friends and relatives start greeting each other. Before the *Īd* prayer begins, every Muslim who is able must pay *Zakāt al-fiṭr*, an alms for the month of Ramaḍān. This equates to about two kilograms of basic food supplies including wheat, barley, dates, raisins, etc., or its cash equivalent, and is typically collected at the mosque. This is distributed to needy local Muslims prior to the start of the *Īd* prayer. Since most Egyptians live in close proximity to the Nile, felucca Nile rides is one common feature of *Īd* celebration in Egyptian villages, towns and cities. For a lot of families from working neighborhoods, *Īd* celebration also includes picnics in green areas including parks, zoos, botanical gardens and even green islands on major roads. They go out to amusement parks, gardens or public courtyards based on how much their *Īdiyyh* affords. The amusement parks can range from the huge ones on the outskirts of Cairo to small mobile neighborhood rides consisting of swings, much like a neighborhood carnival.

*Īd* is a time for family gatherings and since a lot of Egyptian city dwellers are first- or second-generation immigrants from towns and villages, those gatherings can involve traveling. It is customary for children to receive a *Īdiyyh* from their grown-up relatives. This is a small sum of money that the children receive, to spend on all their activities throughout the *Īd*.

## Food

The family gatherings involve cooking and eating all kinds of Egyptian food but the item most associated with *Īd al-Fiṭr* are *Kaḥk* (plural) *Kaḥk* (singular) which are cookies filled with nuts and covered with sugar powder. Egyptians either bake it at home or buy it in the bakery.

## Greetings

The most common greeting is *Īd Mubārak* ("have a blessed Īd") and *Īd sa Īd* ("happy feast.")

## **Clothing**

Children always wear new clothes during this holiday, but even adults like to wear new clothes!

**1. The big feast *Īd al-'aḍḥḥ*, Festival of Sacrifice or Greater Bairam:** *Īd al-'aḍḥḥ* annually falls on the tenth day of the month of *dul ḥiġḥ* ذو الحجة of the lunar Islamic calendar. While *Īd al-'aḍḥḥ* is always on the same day of the Islamic calendar, the date on the Gregorian calendar varies from year to year. Each year, *Īd al-'aḍḥḥ*, like other Islamic holidays falls on one of two different Gregorian dates in different parts of the world, due to the fact that the boundary of crescent visibility is different from the International dateline.

It is a religious festival celebrated by Muslims including the Druze worldwide to commemorate the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son Ishmael as an act of obedience to God. However, God provided a ram in place once Ibrahim demonstrated his willingness to follow God's commands. *Īd al-'aḍḥḥ* occurs the day after the pilgrims conducting *Hajj*, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia by Muslims worldwide, descend from Mount Arafat.

## **Traditions and Rituals**

Women and children are expected to dress in their finest clothing to perform *Īd* prayer in a large congregation in open areas, not in mosques. Muslims who can afford to do so sacrifice their best domestic animals, usually sheep, but also camels, cows and goats as a symbol of Ibrahim's sacrifice. The sacrificed animals are called *uḍḍiyyh* أضحية. The regular charitable practices of the Muslim community are demonstrated during *Īd al-'aḍḥḥ* by the concerted effort to see that no impoverished person is left without sacrificial food during these days. Distributing meat among people is considered an essential part of the festival during this period, as well as chanting *Takbīr* out loud before the *Īd* prayer on the first day and after prayers through out the four days of *Īd*. In some countries families that do not own livestock can make a contribution to a charity that will provide meat to those who are in need. People visit family members and friends and children wear their new clothes and go out to amusement parks, gardens or public courtyards based on how much their *Īdiyyh* are.

## **Food**

People usually eat *Fatth*. It is a mixture of meat cubes embedded in rice and crusted pita pieces in soup. It is a traditional meal that is enjoyed by all Egyptians and is considered the most famous dish in Egypt.



## **Greetings**

On *īd al-ʿaḍḥḥ* you can greet Muslims by saying: *īd Mubārak* which means "Blessed Festival."

They, in turn may respond by saying *Taqabbal Allah minnā wa minkum* which means "May Allah accept good deeds from us, and from you."

LESSON NOTES

# All About #10

## Top 5 Pop Culture Things/Icons You Need to Know About Egypt

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# 10

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is the Top Five Things to Know About Pop Culture in Egypt

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As popular culture changes quickly and drastically, this lesson is focused on the most recent pop culture phenomena.

We'll focus on the top five pop culture icons in Egypt.

### 1. Popular Music

In Egypt, Arabic style plus pop and hip hop are most common now: it's very popular basically everywhere. A very famous song of this type is *Nūr il'īn*. The Arabic songs have been influenced by the American music, plus Spanish from a while ago, as well as African style.

The most popular singer in Egypt now is 'mr Diāb. He is considered to be the king of Arabic songs. It's not always easy to classify the song style, however, it's considered mostly Arabic/Egyptian style with a mixture of a little pop. 'mr Diāb is liked by a huge majority of people which includes students of all ages, people under forty-five years old and the general public. He is extremely famous all over the Arabic world but then so are all of the Egyptian singers! What makes him special is that he is known worldwide as well, he even won a Grammy award!

### 2. Popular Movies

Movies when they were black-and-white were very simple, mostly comedy with a little romance along the way. War movies were also popular and were very influenced by Egyptian history. Action or thrillers were not so widespread at that time. Popularity also depends on famous novels by very talented writers such as Nagīb Maḥfūz who is a Nobel Prize Winner.

These days action, thriller, and comedy and romance, can be found all in one movie. Such movies are called all in one film for fun sometimes! There are also movies that show current social problems. Egypt holds the record for the biggest number of movies made in the Arabic world; what Egypt produces in one year exceeds that of the rest of the Arabic world put together. However, movies from Palestine, Morocco and Lebanon are also well known.

The biggest movie stars in Egypt currently are 'ādil 'imām, an old and very important actor, plus 'ḥmad issa'ā, a young action-romance film hero. *Alerhab welkaba* or "*Terrorism and Kebab*" for 'ādil 'imām, and *'fricānū* for 'ḥmad issa'ā are popular movies that they are known

for. ‘ādil ’imām was already famous and well known from before, but this movie marks a different era in his movie-making career. It was one of the first to discuss some social, political, economical, and educational problems in Egypt, all in a very fun and attractive way which was not depressing to see. It raised some questions as well.

As for ḥmad issa’ā, his movie was probably the first real action movie made that gained the respect of critics. It was also shot in the jungles of Africa with lots of nature with some romance and great action. Both are liked by all ages and they are very well known and recognized all over the Arabic world. ‘ādil ’imām might be known abroad as well because of his long history in movies and theatre.

### **3. Popular Television**

Most of what is shown on foreign TV is shown in Egypt at the same time. Such shows as *24*, *Prison Break*, *Heroes*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Friends*, *Ugly Betty*, *Two and a Half Men*, *Oprah*, *The Tyra Banks Show*, *Dr. Phil*, *Doctors*, *Late Show with David Letterman*, and all reality TV programs are also aired around the same time. However, whatever is known and famous in the Arabic World is only here! The native television shows most popular now in Egypt are dramas, comedy shows, talks shows, and very little reality TV. Dramas usually last for a thirty-part series and have a definite end. It's different from the shows in the western world because there are no soapish shows. The biggest television icon in Egypt now is Nūr ’išīrif, a TV actor who is in movies as well as plays. He has done more than fifty movies, forty TV series and ten plays. He is liked by the general public, because he has been on TV for a very long time, so both older and younger generations are familiar with him.

### **4. Popular Countrymen/Women Abroad**

The writers in Egypt are well known abroad. Many Egyptian writers have their works translated in many languages. Many write in fields including journalism, comedy, and novels. The most famous writer is Nagīb Maḥfūz. He is known for writing about Egyptian society during the 40s and up until the 90s. His books were known to discuss existentialism. He has won the Nobel Prize for Literature and most of his books and novels have been translated to many languages. Some have even been made into movies! He also showed the life of middle class Egyptians, their conflicts, lifestyle, education, health issues, and marriage. He also wrote about the war times and occupation in Egypt and other Arabic countries.

### **5. Popular Sports Figures**

In Egypt people are very passionate about sports. One of the most popular sports in Egypt is football (known as soccer in the US). It has been popular for a very long time—since the

British occupation in 1883. The biggest and most famous sports figure in Egypt right now is 'bū Trīkh. He is a football player and is known to focus all his energy on playing football. He may however appear in some commercials or TV shows from time to time. He is well respected since he has not had any scandals attached to his name. He is also well known for the club he plays at, il-'hlī, which won club of the century by FIFA. When Egypt played at the Africa Cup of Nations, he was one of the key players in the game. Popular figures are famous all over the Arabic and probably the African world as well.

LESSON NOTES

# All About #11

## Top 5 Tools for Learning Arabic

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# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Useful Tools for Learning Arabic

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Top 5 Tools for learning Arabic:

1. [The virtual Arabic keyboard](#)
2. [Arabic reading with translation](#)
3. [Arabic Radio/podcasts](#)
4. [Translation websites for words and more!](#)
5. [Arabic videos, and news channels with the conversation script](#)

### 1. The Virtual Arabic Keyboard

Many people don't have Arabic scripts enabled on their computers. Therefore, a website that provides the Arabic keyboard is needed for typing on the computer.

The first website: [www.arabic-keyboard.org/](http://www.arabic-keyboard.org/)

The second website: [www.muftah-alhuruf.com/](http://www.muftah-alhuruf.com/)

The virtual Arabic keyboard tool is very important because it gives you the option of writing Arabic script on your computer, even if you don't have the font installed or enabled. It's free and there are several websites that offer it.

It can be used by everyone from beginners to advanced learners of Arabic.

### 2. Reading with translated text

[www.news.meedan.net/](http://www.news.meedan.net/)

There are few websites that offer Arabic reading with translations at the moment. This would be very useful for Arabic learners since it helps with reading fluency as well as vocabulary. It also has a mini dictionary for some of the words.

Upper intermediate students will find this tool useful since the vocabulary tends to be at a

higher level. Since the topics are usually media related, people who work in media or even politics will benefit from it a great deal.

### **3. Arabic radio stations**

### **4. Translating websites, words and more**

<http://translate.google.com/#>

Since many important websites are only provided in Arabic, it's useful to use this tool. Plus, when reading or listening to Arabic, it's always good to have a handy translator.

### **5. Arabic videos, and news channels with the conversation script**

The websites for all the five tools:

<http://www.e-arabic.com/virtual-realia-arabic-language-reading-practice-beginners-level>

<http://www.mahatetmasr.com/eng/index.aspx>

<http://www.multilingualbooks.com/online-radio-arabic.html#uae>

<http://translate.google.com/#>

<http://www.tarjem.com/>

<http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/C80F9989-0191-4AED-B180-8B20E1690105.htm>



LESSON NOTES

# All About #12

## Top 5 Tips for Avoiding Common Mistakes in Arabic

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CONTENTS

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# 12

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is the Top Five Mistakes Not to Make When Speaking Arabic

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1. **Mixing up pronunciations (*ha* and *ḥa(7a)* and *ʿīn(3een)*)**
2. **Using the wrong negation word or form, especially when dealing with verbs**
3. **Sentence order and using adjectives**
4. **The wrong pronunciation of the short and long vowels**
5. **Not conjugating, using the main form of the verb with all, or the masculine form**

### 1. Mixing up the pronunciation of three very important letters (*ha*, *ḥa*, and *ʿīn*)

The reason it's a common mistake for many is that it's simply a new language with new letters for everyone, and they sound very similar to each other. It takes some practice and listening to hear, and more importantly, to get used to them!

Also, depending on a person's native tongue, pronunciation may be easier or more difficult.

Examples of words that may be confused:

[Ha] - *hārib*

[ḥa] - *ḥārib*

[ʿīn] - *ʿabīr*

The first letter is similar to an "-h."

The second letter is called a hallow letter, and the third letter is pronounced more deeply in the throat.

Two more examples for letters ḥa, and ʿīn:

ḥa - *ḥalīm*, and ʿīn - *ʿalīm*

### 2. Using the wrong form of negation that goes in both standard and Egyptian dialect

First, in standard there is a different form for each tense, but it doesn't change according to the person. In the Egyptian dialect, only one word is used for negation. That goes for nouns,

adjectives, verbs, time and place expressions, and prepositions. Usually, it's the same word, but it must be broken down when dealing with the past tense. The first half at the beginning of the verb and then the second half at the end of the verb. The sound of the verb could change dramatically, so you have to know what you're saying and understand it when people use it as well. It must be done in the past tense, with prepositions, and it's a choice in present or habitual tense. People often make the mistake, especially if they have previous knowledge of standard Arabic or if they are learning standard Arabic, of mixing the negation tools and the tense of the verb.

In Standard Arabic there is a conjugation for each person in each tense, but when using the negation form, only the main tool is used, which indicates the tense, and the verb is conjugated according to the person in infinitive form, so no tense is set with the verb in this case.

### 3. Forming sentences and using adjectives

Using an adjective in Arabic is very much like in Latin languages: it comes after the noun and it acts like it. Masculine, feminine and plural. The only difference that confuses people is that when using it in standard Arabic, it takes twelve forms. It changes with each person, so there are "you" for singular masculine, then single feminine, then dual masculine, dual feminine, plural masculine, and plural feminine.

It's much easier with the dialects. It takes only three forms, which are masculine, feminine, and plural. It affects the formation of the sentence. A basic nominal sentence would be *al-walad kaslan*. Or "The boy is lazy." Notice there is no verb to be in this sentence. When *al* is added, which is the definite article at the beginning of the noun, the adjective follows the noun. If *al* is removed, the sentence becomes *walad kaslan*, which means "a lazy boy". To say "the lazy boy is..." if it will be *al-walad al-kaslan...*

### 4. Wrong pronunciation of short and long vowels

If a letter is pronounced with a short vowel instead of a long vowel, or vice versa, the meaning of the word will completely change. It will probably be a real word, but very different from the word meant by the speaker.

For example, in Arabic, the words *ḥamām* and *ḥammām* mean "bathroom" and "pidgins," the

only difference is the stress. The word works for both standard and Egyptian dialect, but the next example only if in Egyptian dialect, *ta'bān* and *ti'bān*. The difference here is the small *-a* and *-i* sound in the middle. And that small sound makes a difference between "I'm tired" and "I'm a snake," or "sneaky" in this case.

## 5. Not conjugating correctly

Arabic is a very logical language, with clear rules and very few irregularities. Conjugating wrong is a common mistake because there are many forms and sometimes people just want to speak quickly. So they take the short way and use the easiest or the closest way that comes to their mind, which might cause them not to conjugate correctly.

LESSON NOTES

# All About #13

## Top 5 Phrases Your Teacher Will Never Teach You

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CONTENTS

- 2 Arabic
- 2 Grammar

# 13

# ARABIC

1. *ṣabāḥelful, ṣabāḥelgamāl, ṣabāḥeleštah...* صباح الفل | صباح الجمال | صباح القشطة .1
2. *eštah.* قشطة .2
3. *mališ fīh* ماليش فيه .3
4. *kabbar dimāgak.* كبر دماغك .4
5. *tuḥfa mūt.* تحفة موت .5

## GRAMMAR

### **Te Focus of This Lesson is the Top Five Phrases Your Teacher Will Never Teach You**

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The top 5 phrases your teacher will never teach you are...

**1. *ṣabāḥ elful, ṣabāḥ elgamāl, eleštah* ("a morning of Arabian jasmine beauty, cream...").**

These are all variations of *ṣabāḥ el ḥair*, which means "good morning."

**2. *eštah*, which literally means "cream."**

But as a slang, it means "super," "great," "fantastic," "cool," "brilliant," "I'm on," "count me in," "it's a deal," or "let's do it."

**3. *mališ fīh***

It means "I'm not into it," "it's not my thing," or "I have no knowledge about this."

**4. *kabbar dimāgak* for a man, *kabbari dimāgik* for a girl.**

Literally, it means "enlarge your brain," but as a slang expression "let it go," "drop it," "ignore it."

## 5. *tuḥfa mūt*. Originally it meant "antique."

As a slang word it works as "fantastic," "great," "real good," or could be "one of its kind." Sometimes it can be a little negative, meaning "a bit old-fashioned," but it's not common at all in that meaning.

## LESSON NOTES

# All About #14

# Top 5 Classroom Phrases in Arabic

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Arabic
- 2 Grammar

# 14



# ARABIC

1. lawsamaḥt 'a'idhazā / lawsamaḥt 'iddā لو سمحت أعد هذا | لو سمحت عيد  
٥٥
2. kayfa 'aqūl" / "'izzāy 'a'ūl... كيف أكُل؟ | إزاي أقول؟
3. hal yumkinunī 'an'as'al... / mumkin'as'al?... هل يمكنني أن أسأل؟ | ممكن  
أسأل؟
4. 'anā lā 'afham / miš fahim - miš fāhmh أنا لا أفهم | مش فاهم | مش فاهمه
5. lawsamaḥt qulmarrh'ukhrā bibuṭ' / lawsamaḥt 'ūltānībirrāḥh لو سمحت, قل مرة أخرى ببطء | لو سمحت قول تاني براحه

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is the Top Five Most Useful Phrases for Learning Arabic

---

First we will give you Standard Arabic, followed by the Egyptian dialect expression.

#### 1. *law samaḥt 'a'id hathā / law samaḥt 'id dā*

"Please repeat that."

#### 2. *kayfa 'aqūl" / "'izzāy 'a'ūl...*

"How do you say..." - "But we say..." ("How can I say...")

#### 3. *hal yumkinunī 'an 'as'al... / mumkin 'as'al ?...*

"May I ask?"

#### 4. *'anā lā 'afham / miš fahim - miš fāhmh*

"I don't understand."

#### 5. *law samaḥt qul marrh 'ukhrā bibuṭ' / law samaḥt 'ūl tānī birrāḥh*

"Please repeat that slowly." - Literally, "Please say again slowly."

## LESSON NOTES

# All About #15

## The Best Arabic Phrases - Learn Your Arabic Teacher's Favorite Phrases

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Arabic
- 2 Grammar

# **15**

# ARABIC

1. fil-mišmiš في المشمش .1
2. mūt موت .2
3. yiftaḥ Allah يفتح الله .3
4. ‘alā ḥisābī على حسابي .4
5. yā salām يا سلام .5

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson is the Top Five Phrases Your Teacher Will Never Teach You**

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### 1. *fil-mišmiš*

"impossible," "no way"

### 2. *mūt*

"a lot," "extremely"

### 3. *yiftaḥ Allah*

"no deal"

### 4. *‘alā ḥisābī*

"It's on me."

### 5. *yā salām*

"oh really," "seriously," "is that it?," "continue" (surprise expression)

All of the above are simple, but the meaning each one holds is very important. They are all expressions; if you try to break them apart, the meaning will be so different.

### *fil-mišmiš*

If the two words were translated separately, it will be as follows: *fil* means "in the" and *miš-miš* means "apricot."

As a meaning, it works as "no way" or "impossible".

### *mūt*

When *mūt* is used in any phrase, it could mean "extremely," that is, extremely good, bad, nice, whether you like something or extremely hate it. The word literally means "death." It's like saying: "I love it to death limit," or "hate it to death limit." That is why it's translated as "extremely."

### *yiftaḥ Allah*

It is used when bargaining with a salesman and the price is not good. At the end, people would just say *yiftaḥ Allah*. In this case it means "no deal" or "I don't like, I'm out of here."

### *‘alā ḥisābī*

It means "It's on my account," or simply, "It's on me."

### *ya salam!*

It is very popular and common and can be used with anyone (even the boss). It's more informal, but it's also all right to use it in formal situations. It means "oh really," and could show wonder, or express sarcasm. It all depends on the intonation, and the facial expressions if it's face-to-face—on the phone it really shows as well. And when someone is telling an interesting situation or story, and he/she stops for a moment or tells a part that is really exciting or surprising, people would say *ya salam* too, and here it works as both "oh really," and "Please go on," so it could mean "continue" as well. *ya* is a calling article, which is used a lot. And *salam* means "peace." So people actually say "Oh peace."

LESSON NOTES

# Pronunciation #1

## Arabic Dark Letters part 1

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CONTENTS

2 Grammar

# 1

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is the Arabic Dark Letters

---

We will cover some basic sounds, how to pronounce them, and what mistakes not to make.

Firstly, we will make a short introduction to the Arabic alphabet. The Arabic alphabet consists of twenty-eight letters. Among them there are three long vowels and four letters called the "dark letters" because the sound produced by them is very similar to other four letters but with a deeper or darker tone.

There are four letters that we pronounce softly and four others that resemble them but have a deeper tone. We will cover two pairs of them.

### sīn and ṣād

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For the best result, focus on soft, dark, or soft and deep. [sa], [ṣa] It has to come from deep of your throat and don't stress it.

#### For Example:

1. [sayf], [ṣayf]
2. [sadā], [ṣadā]
3. [sāla], [ṣāla]

As you might have noticed, even though we have only changed one letter in the word the sound of the rest of the word changes. It's affected by the dark letter. Always keep that in mind. It won't be a perfect matching sound as a change is bound to happen!

### dāl and ḍād

---

The second pair is dāl and ḍād.

**For Example:**

1. [dām], [ḍām]
2. [wada ʻ], [waḍa ʻ]

The trick is to not stress, but try to pronounce the first softly, like a normal "-d" in English, and the second sound, it is deeper.

A couple of tricky words are diʻh and ḍiʻh.



LESSON NOTES

# Pronunciation #2

## Arabic Dark Letters part 2

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CONTENTS

2 Grammar

# 2

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is Arabic Dark Letters, Part 2.

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In the previous lesson, we spoke about the dark letters. We said there are four of them and they are very similar to four "soft" letters in Arabic. The first two were sīn and ṣād. The second set was dāl and ḍād. In this lesson, we have ṭ. The equivalent soft letter is T. So we have [tāb] and [ṭāb].

### For Example:

1. [tābi'] and [ṭābi']
2. [tal] and [ṭal]

## z and za

---

The last of the dark letters is -z, which is a dark letter for -za.

Remember, it's the same principle. Deep sound, soft sound, like the air is just floating out of your mouth.

### For Example:

1. [zāhir] and [ṣāhir]
2. [zuhūr] and [ṣuhūr]

LESSON NOTES

# Pronunciation #3

## Arabic tricky letters

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CONTENTS

2 Grammar

# 3

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is Arabic Tricky Letters

---

In this lesson, we will be talking about some tricky letters. First, a quick summary what has been done in the first two lessons. We covered the four dark letters and the four letters that resemble them in a softer tone, which were sa and ṣa, da and ḍ, ta and ṭa, and finally, za and ḏa.

In this lesson, we will cover 'lif, ḥ, ' , and ha.

The sounds produced are similar to each other with small differences.

When we try the sound of each letter, the difference is shown more, which are [ʾa], [ḥa], [ʿa], and [ha]

### For Example:

1. 'alam,
2. ḥalam,
3. 'alam
4. halum

Let's take them two by two.

### 'alam and 'alam

---

The first two are 'alam and 'alam. As you can see, the first one is more like "-a" as in "apple." The second one is a different sound. It comes from the throat. You actually feel your cords moving when you pronounce this one.

A non-friendly image to how you can pronounce it, is think of the sound you make when you're about to vomit [ʿʿ], and that's the one we're looking for!

Another two words in which to see the difference are 'lā and 'lā.

Another one before we move to the second set of letters is sa'al and sa'al.

## ḥa and ha

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Moving on, we have ḥa and ha. [ḥa], [ha].

### For Example:

1. ḥalh
2. halh

The trick to pronouncing them is to know that the ha is the same as the "-h" in English. As for the -ḥ, it's called in Arabic, "a hollow letter" because of the way it's pronounced. Think of it as a "chilly" letter, it's the exact sound.

### For Example:

1. hama and ḥama
2. hammām, ḥammām

LESSON NOTES

# Pronunciation #4

## Stressing Arabic letters

---

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

# 4

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is Stressing Arabic Letters

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In this lesson, we will talk about a rule that states that when we have some letters that sound the same, we basically pronounce and stress one of them because it's hard to pronounce each one clearly.

This happens with letters like ta and ṭa. For example, the word "vaccination" in Arabic is spelled "-ta- ṭ- ī-m." When said slowly, it should be [taṭīm], but in reality, we pronounce [taṭīm]. What we can notice here, is that we pronounce both of them as the dark "-t" sound.

Another example is the word spelled "-mu-ta-ṭā-wi-l" but it is pronounced [mutaṭāwil]. Also, in this case we pronounced both with the dark "-t" sound!

### da and ta

---

Two letters that could be pronounced with the same sound are da and ta.

#### For Example:

1. The word "tadāwul," is spelled "-ta-dā-wu-l" but is pronounced [tadāwul]. In this case, the "-d" in this word is not very visible.

This could also happen with words that have the dark and soft "-s" sound, and they don't even follow each other directly.

So, is there a letter between them? The idea here, is that both of them will be pronounced closer to the dark letter, not the soft one.

#### For Example:

1. The word spelled "-mu-s-ta-ṣ-la-ḥ" is pronounced [mustaṣlah].

In all the words we did so far, the dark letter affected the soft one. This is because the dark letter is stronger and deeper, so it actually affects the entire word.

### For Example:

1. The word spelled "ta-b-ṭ-ī-n" we pronounce [tabṭīn].

In this case, it was the dark and soft "-t."



LESSON NOTES

# Pronunciation #5

## Dark letters change words!

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CONTENTS

2 Grammar

# 5

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is How Dark Letters Change Words

---

In this lesson, you will learn the answer to a very common question we always get about the sound of some letters.

In this lesson, we will see how the dark letters affect the sound of the entire word.

1. Will the soft letters have less effect?

The word you will pronounce much faster and each letter will keep its original sound.

First, we will focus now on "-ā," the long vowel, and see how it's pronounced in some words.

### For Example:

1. zāhir
2. ẓāhir

The difference here is as follows, the "-ā" is pronounced differently, so you get it in the first word as [ā], and in the second word, [ạ̄].

The reason for that is that the first word didn't start with a dark letter, so the sound is all the same, but with the second one, it started with a dark letter so the sound has changed here. You can't start with a dark letter and finish softly.

2. Does the same thing happen if the dark letter comes in the middle of the word?

### For Example:

1. masār
2. ḥiṣār

It's the same letter, but was affected by the dark one.

And just as it happened with the "-ā," it could happen with any other long vowel and even the consonants.

**For Example:**

1. maktab
2. maṭlab

The last two letters were also affected, it took a deeper sound!

**For Example:**

1. muḏhir
2. muzhir

Simon: [muḏhir] and [muzhir]

Always remember that it's very easy to notice when a dark letter is in the word because the sound of the entire word will change to a deeper sound.

There are two more letters that we will focus on, which don't exist in the Latin language or English.

The first one is "-ḥ." It's very similar to the "-h" sound in Spanish, Dutch, and German. In a word, the sound will be [ḥarūf].

**For Example:**

1. ḥifyh

The final letter is "-ġ." This letter is very similar to the French "-r."

**For Example:**

1. mašġūl
2. ġālī



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