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Egyptian Arabic Grammar

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# Contents

# Introduction

This book is a concise reference to grammar for people who are learning the spoken arabic of Egypt. It is intended to be used alongside other study aids available free of charge in various formats at www.lisaanmasry.org. These include over 1,500 example sentences with detailed explanations of the meanings, and recordings of all examples and words

## Getting started

This document is made up of three main sections:

- essentials - an introduction to grammatical terms and to Egyptian arabic, pointing out the similarities and differences between Egyptian and English
- grammar - a description of how to build sentences using the standard language elements
- usage - commonly used words, phrases and expressions

If you just want to learn a few useful phrases like "Hello" and "How are you?", you can skip to the Courtesies chapter, however it will make a lot more sense to you if you read the earlier chapters first.

## A word about arabic writing

It is not difficult to learn to read and write in arabic, but it is an additional barrier to learning. You are unlikely ever to see Egyptian Arabic in print: notices, packaging, adverts, web sites etc are written in Modern Standard Arabic. And if you want to read Arabic handwriting, that's a different ballgame altogether. An understanding of the Arabic alphabet can, therefore, be useful, but it is by no means essential.

The examples in this book appear in arabic writing and also in european writing as they would be pronounced by and English person.

# The essentials

In many cases, Egyptian uses the same structure as English: let's first look at some simple examples where the structure is similar, then move on to the differences.

## Nouns and verbs

Here is a simple sentence in both English and Egyptian:

<div align="center">

Ahmed loves sarah
'ah<u>mad</u> biyi<u>hibb</u> saa<u>ra</u>
أحمـَد بـِيـِحـِبّ سا رَ رَ ةَ

</div>

| Element | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| subject noun | Ahmed | 'ah<u>mad</u> | أحمـَد |
| verb | loves | biyi<u>hibb</u> | بـِيـِحـِبّ |
| object noun | Sarah | <u>saa</u>ra | سارَ رَ ةَ |

In both the English and Egyptian examples, there are three words: two words are nouns (people, things or ideas) and the middle word is a verb, which explains what is happening. In both cases, the noun before the verb (Ahmed) is the subject (the person or thing that is doing something) and the noun after the verb (Sarah) is the object- is the person or thing that is having something done to it.

We can change the meaning by turning the words around, like this:

<div align="center">

Sarah loves Ahmed
<u>saa</u>ra biti<u>hibb</u> 'ah<u>mad</u>
سارَ رَ ةَ بـِتـِحـِبّ أحمـَد

</div>

| Element | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| subject noun | Sarah | <u>saa</u>ra | سارَ رَ ةَ |
| verb | loves | bi**t**i<u>hibb</u> | بـِتـِحـِبّ |
| object noun | Ahmed | 'ah<u>mad</u> | أحمـَد |

The nouns do not change, they have just moved: we know from the order of the words that Sarah is now the subject- the one who is loving, and Ahmed is now the object, the one who is loved. In English, the verb does not change at all, but in Egyptian it changes a little because the subject is now female, not male. We will look in more detail at how exactly verbs change to match the subject later, in the section on verbs.

## Subject and Object

The subject and object can be a **proper noun**- a name that begins with a capital letter- like Sarah, Ahmed, London, but there are some other possiblities as well. Here are some examples:

| Element | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| proper noun | Sarah | <u>saa</u>ra | سا‍رَ ‍ة |
| noun (specific) | the man | il<u>raa</u>gil | اِ‍لرا‍جِ‍ل |
| | the woman | il<u>sitt</u> | اِ‍لسـِتّ |
| | the cat | il'<u>uTT</u>a | اِ‍لقـُ‍طـِ‍ـَ‍ة |
| | the idea | il<u>fik</u>ra | اِ‍لفـِكر‍َ ‍ة |
| noun(general) | a man | <u>raa</u>gil | را‍جِ‍ل |
| | a woman | <u>sitt</u> | سـِتّ |
| | a cat | '<u>uTT</u>a | قـُ‍طـِ‍ـَ‍ة |
| | an idea | <u>fik</u>ra | فـِكر‍َ ‍ة |
| noun(quantity) | some men | sh<u>w</u>yit riga<u>laat</u> ‍ة | شويـِة ر‍ِجا‍لا‍ |
| | five men | <u>K</u>amas ri<u>gaa</u>la | خـَمـَس ر‍ِجا‍لا‍ |
| | any man | '<u>ai</u> raa<u>gil</u> | أي را‍جِ‍ل |
| pronoun(subject) | he | hu<u>ww</u>a | هـُـوّ |
| | she | <u>hi</u>ya | هـِـي |
| pronoun(object) | him | -uh | ـُه |
| | her | -<u>ha</u> | ها‍ |

## Determiners

Determiners help to identify the specific, the kind or the quantity of something that you are talking about. In English, determiners are words like **the**, **a**, **some** and **his**.

The Egyptian word **il-** ‍اِلـ corresponds to **the** in English, but there is no equivalent to 'a'. The noun just appears on its own.

Note that adding **il-** اِلـ to a word affects the pronunciation if it begins with a <span style="color:blue">sun letter</span>.

# Pronouns

Pronouns are the short words like **I** and **they** that often replace nouns in spoken English and Egyptian, to make our speech clearer and more concise. Here is a simple example:

I love her
'ana bahibbaha
أناَ بـَحـِبّـَهاَ

| Element | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| subject pronoun | I | 'ana | أناَ |
| verb | love | bahibb | بـَحـِبّ |
| object pronoun | her | -aha | ـَهاَ |

We can see that the subject is still at the start of the sentence and the object is still at the end of the sentence, but in Egyptian the object pronoun is attached to the end of the verb. Let's turn that round and see what happens:

she loves me
hiya bitihibbni
هـِي بـِتـِحـِبّـني

| Element | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| subject pronoun | she | hiya | هـِي |
| verb | loves | bitihibb | بـِتـِحـِبّ |
| object pronoun | me | -ni | ـني |

Woa, what happened there? Everything changed, in both English and Egyptian! The reason is that, in both languages, there are different forms of the pronoun for subject and object. There is a third form of the pronoun that indicates ownership (mine/his/yours/theirs/its) but we will save that until we cover pronouns in more detail. For now, let's just look at the subject and object pronouns. Remember that object pronouns are attached to the end of the verb.

| Subject | | Object | |
|---|---|---|---|
| English | Egyptian | English | Egyptian |
| I | 'ana أناَ | me | -ni ـني |
| we | 'ihna إحناَ | us | -na ناَ |
| you(m) | 'inta إنتَ | you(m) | -ak ـَك |
| you(f) | 'inti إنتِ | you(f) | -ik ـِك |
| you(pl) | 'intu إنتوا | you(pl) | -ukw ـُكو |
| he/it(m) | huwwa هـُوّ | him/it(m) | -uh ـُه |
| she/it(f) | hiya هـِي | her/it(f) | -ha هاَ |
| they | humma هـُمّ | them | -uhum ـُهـُم |

Here are a few more examples:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| I know **him** | **'ana** Aar**fuh** | أنا عا َر ِف ُه |
| Ahmed knows **him** | **'ah**mad Aar**fuh** | أحمَد عا َر ِف ُه |
| Sarah knows **him** | **saa**ra Aar**fituh** | سا َر َة عا َر ِفِت ُه |
| I smoke cigarettes | **'ana** bash**rab** sa**gaa**yar | أنا با َشر َب سـِجا َيـَر |
| I write books | **'ana** bak**tib** ku**toob** | أنا با َكتِب كـُتوب |
| Ahmed writes books | **'ah**mad bi**yik**tib ku**toob** | أحمَد بـِيـِكتِب كـُتوب |
| **he** writes books | hu**ww**a bi**yik**tib ku**toob** | هـُوّ َ بـِيـِكتِب كـُتوب |

Note that, in Egyptian, the subject pronoun can be omitted if the meaning is still clear:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| **I know him** | **'ana** Aar**fuh** | أنا َ عا َر ِف ُه |
| | Aar**fuh** | عا َر ِف ُه |
| Do **you (m) know him** | hu**ww**a **'inta** Aar**fuh**? | هـُوّ َ إنتـَ عا َر ِف ُه؟ |
| | hu**ww**a Aar**fuh**? | هـُوّ َ عا َر ِف ُه؟ |

## There is no 'is'

The word is/am/are is one of the most commonly use verbs in English.... but, if you are talking about something now (not the past or future), there is no word in Egyptian for 'is'. That's quite a big difference, but it's not too difficult. Let's take a look at some examples:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| I am tired | **'ana** ta**Abaan** | أنا َ تـَعبا َن |
| Ahmed is Egyptian | **'ah**mad ma**Sri** | أحمَد مـَصري |
| the cats are in the garden | il**'uTaT** fi ilgi**nee**na | الـقـُطـَط في ا ِلجـِنينـَة |
| Sarah is available | **saa**ra maw**goo**da | سا َر َة مـَوجود َة |
| today is Friday | ilna**har**da ilgumAa**ة** | النـَها َرد َة ا ِلجـُمعـَة |
| this is my wife | **di** mi**raa**ti | دي مـِرا َتي |
| my husband is at home | **goo**zi fi il**biyt** | جوزي في ا ِلبـِيت |

When you are talking about a past or future situation, the Egyptian words **kaan** كا َن - **was** and **hay**koon هـَيكون - **will be** are used. This will be covered in more detail later under verbs. Here are some simple examples:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| I am tired | 'ana taAbaan | أناَ تـَعبا َن |
| Ahmed is tired | 'ahmad taAbaan | أحمـَد تـَعبا َن |
| I **was** tired | 'ana **kunt** taAbaan | أناَ **كـُنت** تـَعبا َن |
| Ahmed **was** tired | 'ahmad **kaan** taAbaan | أحمـَد **كا َن** تـَعبا َن |
| I **will be** tired | 'ana **hakoon** taAbaan | أناَ **هـَكون** تـَعبا َن |
| Ahmed **will be** tired | 'ahmad **hayikoon** taAbaan | أحمـَد **هـَيـِكون** تـَعبا َن |

## There is no 'have'

The verb **have** is widely used in English, but there is no equivalent verb in Egyptian. **Have** is used in many ways in English, and in Egyptian a different word is used for each meaning... and none of them are verbs.

| Meaning | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| have with me | I **have** matches | **maAa**ya kab**reet** | مـَعـَيا َ كـَيريت |
| own | I **have** a house | **Aand**i biyt | عـَندي بـِيت |
| must | I **have to** go | **laazim** 'aruwh | لاَز ِم أر ُوح |
| eat, etc | I will **have** dinner<br>(I will dine) | hat**Aa**shsha | هـَتعـَشّا َ |
| take | I will **have** a nap<br>(I will take a nap) | **haa**Kuz taA**see**la | ها َخـُذ تـَعسيلـَة |

## Masculine, feminine, plural

Like many european languages, all Egyptian nouns are either masculine or feminine. Here are some examples:

| Gender | English | Arabic | |
|---|---|---|---|
| masculine | book | k<u>itaa</u>b | كـِـتا َب |
| | dog | <u>kalb</u> | كـَـلـب |
| | man | <u>raa</u>gil | را َجـِـل |
| | house | b<u>iyt</u> | بـِـيت |
| | milk | <u>la</u>ban | لـَـيـَـن |
| | peace | sa<u>laam</u> | سـَـلا َم |
| | teacher | mu<u>dar</u>ris | مـُـد َر ّ ِس |
| feminine | teacher | mudar<u>ri</u>sa | مـُـد َر ّ ِسـَـة |
| | idea | <u>fik</u>ra | فـِـكر َة |
| | table | tara<u>bee</u>za | تـَـرا َبيز َة |
| | workshop | <u>war</u>sha | و َرشـَـة |
| | woman | <u>sitt</u> | سـِـتّ |
| | daughter girl | <u>bint</u> | بـِـنت |
| | fire | <u>naar</u> | نا َر |
| | head | <u>raas</u> | را َس |

As you can see, the majority of feminine nouns end in **-a ﺔَـ**. There are a few exceptions though: some are obvious, like woman and daughter, but others, you just need to learn them. We will cover this in more detail in the section on nouns.

In both English and Egyptian, the majority of nouns have singular and plural forms: in Egyptian, a very small number of plural nouns are also divided by gender (masculine and feminine). Here are some examples of plurals:

| English | | Arabic | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Singular | Plural | Singular | | Plural | |
| book | books | kitaab | كِتَا َب | kutub | كُـتُـب |
| dog | dogs | kalb | كَـلْب | kilaab | كِـلاَ َب |
| man | men | raagil | راَجِـِل | riggaala | رِجّاَ َلاَ |
| child | children | Tifl | طِـفل | 'aTfaal | أطفاَل |
| house | houses | biyt | بِـيت | buyoot | بـُيُوت |
| milk | | laban | لَـبَـَن | | |
| peace | | salaam | سَـلاَ َم | | |
| teacher(m) | teachers | mudarris | مـُدَرّ ِس | mudarriseen | مـُدَرّ ِسين |
| teacher(f) | teachers | mudarrisa | مـُدَرّ ِساَ َت | mudarrisaat | مـُدَرّ ِساَ َت |
| idea | ideas | fikra | فِـكر َة | 'afkaar | أفكاَر |
| table | tables | tarabeeza | تَـراَبِيز َة | tarabeezaat | تَـراَبِيزا َت |
| workshop | workshops | warsha | وَرشَـَة | wirash | ورَش |
| woman | women | sitt | سِـتّ | sattaat | سَـتّاَ َت |
| fire | fires | naar | ناَر | neeraan | نيراَن |

In English, the majority of plural nouns are the same as the singular, with a suffix of **-s** for example book/books, but there are a small number of words with unusual plurals, for example man/men and child/children. In Egyptian, feminine nouns that end in **-a** ةً usually have a very straightforward plural- **-aat** ـا َت. Plurals of masculine nouns vary quite a lot- the vowels move about a bit but the consonants remain the same. You will need to learn them.

Note that, both in English and Egyptian, some words do not have a plural- for example **milk** and **peace**.

## Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe something- for example, good or small. In English, adjectives do not change, but in Egyptian there are different forms of an adjective for masculine, feminine and plural. Here are some examples:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| he is tired | huwwa taAbaan | هـُوّ ً تـَعباَ َن |
| she is tired | hiya taAbaana | هـِي تـَعباَ َن ةً |
| they are tired | humma taAbaneen | هـُمّ ً تـَعباَ َنين |
| he is good | huwwa kuwayis | هـُوّ ً كـُوُ َيِـس |
| she is good | hiya kuwayisa | هـِي كـُوُ َيِـس ةً |
| they are good | humma kuwayiseen | هـُمّ ً كـُوُ َيِـسين |

The good news is that the majority of adjectives require just a different ending for feminine- **-a** ةً and plural **-yn** ين forms. We will cover this in more detail in the section on adjectives.

# Adverbs

Just as adjectives describe a noun, adverbs say something about a verb - where, when, how often, how much etc. They can also be used to describe the extent of an adjective (**very** good) or even another adverb (**very** slowly). Many English adverbs end with **-ly**. Usage of adverbs is very similar in English and Egyptian, though adverbs usually go after adjectives: here are some examples

| describing | English | Egyptian |
|---|---|---|
| verb | I will come back **soon** | 'ana hargaA **baAd shuwaya** <br> أناَ هـَرجـَع بـَعد شـُوَ يـَة |
| verb | Ahmed walks **quickly** | 'ahmad biyimshi **bisuraAa** <br> أحمـَد بـِيـِمشي بـِسـُرَ عـَة |
| adjective | Ahmed is **extremely** clever | 'ahmad shaaTir **giddan** <br> أحمـَد شا طـِر جـِدّاً |
| adverb | Ahmed drives **reasonably** fast | 'ahmad biyisoo' bisuraAa **maA'oola** <br> أحمـَد بـِيـِسوق بـِسـُرَ عـَة مـَعقولــَة |

# Prepositions

In English, prepositions link an additional noun to a verb. This is possible in Egyptian, but prepositions are also commonly used in place of verbs, for example **have** is usually expressed using the prepositions **Aand** عـَند (own) and **maAa** مـَعَ (have with you): see ownership for more information. Here are some examples of prepositions:

| English | Egyptian | English | Egyptian |
|---|---|---|---|
| after | baAd <br> بـَعد | she came **after** dinner | hiya gaat **baAd** ilAasha' <br> هـِي جاَت بـَعد ا لعـَشاَ ع |
| behind | wara <br> ورَا | the garden is **behind** the house | ilgineena **wara** ilbiyt <br> الجـِنينـَة و رَا ا لبـِيت |
| have | Aand <br> عـَند | I **have** a house in Cairo | **Aandi** biyt fi il'ahra <br> عـَندي بـِيت في ا لقا َهـِر َة |
| there is | fi <br> في | **there is** water | **fi** mayaat <br> في مـَيا َة |

# Conjunctions

A conjunction joins two clauses to make a much more complex sentence. Here is an example:

I want to make bread **but** I don't have enough flour
Aaayiz 'aAamil Aiysh **lakin** maAandeesh di'ee' kifaaya
عاَيـِز أعـَمـِل عـِيش لـَكـِن مـَعـَنديش د ِقيق كـِفا يـَة

| Part | English | Egyptian |
|---|---|---|
| Main clause | I want to make bread | Aaayiz 'aAamil Aiysh <br> عاَيـِز أعـَمـِل عـِيش |
| Conjunction | but | laakin <br> لاَكـِن |
| Second clause | I don't have enough flour | maAandeesh di'ee' kifaaya <br> مـَعـَنديش د ِقيق كـِفا يـَة |

In English, the same word is often used for a preposition and a conjunction, but in Egyptian it may be different. Sometimes it is only necessary to add the word <u>**ma**</u> مَا to convert a preposition to a conjunction.

| Element | English | Egyptian |
|---------|---------|----------|
| preposition<br>(dinner is a noun) | wash your hands **before** dinner | 'iGsil ie<u>ed</u>eek **'abl** il<u>Aa</u>sha'<br>إغسـِل ا ِيديك قَـَبل ا ِلعـَشاء |
| conjunction<br>(you eat is a clause-<br>it contains a verb) | wash your hands **before** you eat | 'iGsil ie<u>ed</u>eek **'abl ma** taa<u>kul</u><br>إغسـِل ا ِيديك قَـَبل **ما** تا َكـُل |

# Nouns

A noun represents a person, thing or concept. Here are some examples:

| Type | English | Arabic | |
|------|---------|--------|--------|
| person | Ahmed | 'ahmad | أحمـَد |
| person | man | raagil | راَجـِـل |
| person | player | laaAib | لاَعـِب |
| thing | leather | gild | جـِلد |
| concept | wisdom | hikma | حـِكمــَة |
| concept | appointment | meeAaad | ميعاَد |

## Masculine and feminine

In arabic, nouns can be masculine or feminine. This does not necessarily mean that they belong to male and female persons. Most words that end with **-a** ة are feminine. Egyptian spelling is somewhat whimsical: some people use **-ah** ـه at the end of feminine words.

In addition, there are a small number of words that do not end in **-a** ة that are also feminine. Some of these words are obvious: others less so. Here are some examples of feminine nouns:

| Feminine nouns | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| English | Arabic | |
| idea | fikra | فـِكر َة |
| woman | sitt | سـِتّ |
| daughter | bint | بـِنت |
| fire | naar | ناَر |
| head | raas | راَس |
| leg | rigl | رـِجل |
| ear | widn | و ـِدن |
| France and all other countries | faransa | فـَر َنساَ |
| Tunis and some other cities | Toonis | طونـِيس |

## Plurals

If there is more than one of something, the noun becomes a plural. For the majority of English words, we make a small change to the ending - book/books, story/stories: there are a few exceptions, for example child/children. The same is true in Egyptian: for many nouns, only the ending changes, though for quite a few the volwels move around within the word. Here are some of the simple ones:

| Gender | Ending | Singular | | Plural | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| masculine | -yn ﺑﲔ | muhaasib | مـُحا َسـِب | muhasbeen | مـُحا َسـِبين |
| feminine | -aat ـا َت | muhasba ة | مـُحا َسب َ | muhasbaat | مـُحا َسـِبا َت |

For the majority of masculine nouns and for a few feminine nouns, the plural is formed by re-arranging the vowels- usually converting short vowels for long: it's probably easiest just to remember the plural when you learn a new word, rather than trying to work out the rules. Here are some examples:

| English | Singular | | Plural | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| man | raagil | را َجـِل | rigaela | رِجا َلا َ |
| dog | kalb | كـِلَب | kilaeb | كـِلا َب |
| fingernail | Dufr | ضـِفر | Dawaefir | ضـَوا َفـِر |
| book | kitaeb | كـِتا َب | kutub | كـُتـُب |
| story | QiSSa | قـِصيّـَة | QiSaS | قـِصـَص |
| king | malik | مـَلـِك | mulook | مـُلوك |
| type | Sanf | صـَنف | 'aSnaaf | أصنا َف |
| broker | simsaar | سـِمسا َر | samasra | سـَمـَسر َة |

A very small number of nouns have a different plural when you are talking about between 3 and 10 of them. These are:

| English | Singular | | Plural | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| day | yoom | يوم | tiyaem | تـِيا َم |
| month | shahr | شـَهر | tushhoor | تـُشهور |
| person | nafar | نـَفـَر | tinfaar | تـِنفا َر |
| plate | Taba' | طـَبـَق | tiTbaa' | تـِطبا َق |
| thousand | 'alf | ألف | talaaf | تـَلا َف |

## Occupations

Generally speaking, the plural for trades ends with either **-yn** ﺑﲔ or **-aya** ـَيـَة, but for professions there are different endings for men **-yn** ﺑﲔ and women **-aat** ـا َت.

| English | Singular | | Plural | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| carpenter | naggaar | نَـجّـا َر | naggar**een** | نَـجّـا َرين |
| greengrocer | KuDari | خـُـضَـرِي | KuDari**yya** | خـُـضَـرِ ـيِـةَ |
| male teacher | mu<u>darr</u>is | مـُـدَ رّ ِس | mudarri**seen** | مـُـدَ رّ ِسين |
| female teacher | mu<u>darr</u>is**a** | مـُـدَ رّ ِسـةَ | mudarri**saat** | مـُـدَ رّ ِسا َت |

## Collective nouns and mass nouns

In English, **deer** can mean **one** deer or **several**: the latter is described as a collective noun. In Egyptian, many foods- and some other things- are usually referred to using a collective noun. You can talk about one item, for example **one fish**, by adding **-a** ـَة ending:

| English | collective | | one | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| eggs | <u>biyD</u> | بـِـيض | <u>biyD</u>**a** | بـِـيض ـَة |
| fish | sa<u>mak</u> | سـَـمـَك | sa<u>mak</u>**a** | سـَـمـَك ـَة |
| flies | dib<u>baan</u> | دِبّـا َن | dib<u>baan</u>**a** | دِبّـا َن ـَة |

In English, items that you can't easily count, like sugar and cheese, are referred to using a mass noun. In Egyptian, a collective noun is used, and you can refer to a tiny amount of it by adding the **-a** ـَة ending, for example flour is **di<u>QeeQ</u>** دِقيق and a grain of flour is **di<u>QeeQ</u>a** دِقيقـَـة.

Many materials- things that can be used to make something from, like leather or cloth, are treated in the same way: you add **-a** ـَة to give the meaning **a piece of...**

| English | collective | | a piece | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| wood | <u>Ka</u>shab | خـَـشـَـب | <u>Ka</u>shab**a** | خـَـشـَـب ـَة |
| soap | Sa<u>boon</u> | صا َبون | Sa<u>boon</u>**a** | صا َبون ـَة |

## Pairs

The Egyptian word for shoes (<u>ga</u>zma جـَـزمـَـةَ) relates to a pair. For a single shoe, it is necessary to say **<u>fardit</u> gazma** فـَـرد ِة جـَـزمـَـةَ. Note that Egyptians do not consider trousers to be a pair. Here are some examples of words that work like this:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| shoes | <u>ga</u>zma | جـَـزمـَـةَ |
| socks | sha<u>raab</u> | شـَـرا َب |
| gloves | gu<u>wanti</u> | جـُـوا َنتى |

## Duals

If you want to talk about two people, or specify a quantity of two, see the section on two in numbers.

If you want to talk about two things (not people or quantities), you should use the dual suffix **-yn** ين. This is equivalent to **a couple** which can mean exactly two, or approximately two. There are slightly different forms for feminine nouns and words ending in **-i** ي. Here are some examples:

| English | Egyptian | Suffix | English | Egyptian |
|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------|
| book (m) | kitaab كِتا َب | -yn ين- | two books | kitabeen كِتا َبين |
| chair (ends with y) | kursi كُرسي | -iyyin ـِيـِيـن | two chairs | kursiyyin كُرسـِيـِيـن |
| minute (f) | di'ee'a دِقيقـَة | -teen تين- | a couple of minutes | di'i'teen دِقـِقتين |

## Genitive form

The genitive is used to express ownership. In English, the most common way is to put an apostrophe-s on the end of the owned noun, for example **John's house**. It is similar in Egyptian. For masculine nouns, the ending does not change: for feminine nouns that end with **-a** ـَة, the ending changes to **-it** ـِة which is written the same but the t-marbuta at the end is pronounced as a t.

| English | Egyptian |
|---------|----------|
| Ahmed's book | kitaab 'ahmad كِتا َب أحمـَد |
| the book's cover | Gulaef ilkitaeb غُلا َف ا ِلكِتا َب |
| Sarah's toy | liAbit sara لِعبِة سـَر َة |

You can also express the genitive using the word **of**. For example, you could say **the house of John**, although the **'s** form is usually preferred when expressing ownership. **of** can also be used to express a quantity or a package of something: the genitive is also used in Egyptian.

| English | Egyptian |
|---------|----------|
| a bottle of water | 'izzazit mayyah إزّ َز ِة مـَيـيـَه |
| a kilo of potatoes | keelw baTaaTiS كيلو بـَطا َطـِص |
| a pack of cigarettes | bakw seegaayar با َكو سيجا يـَر |
| a box of matches | Ailbit kabreet عـِلبِة كـَبريت |

## Possessive suffixes

In English, you can also express ownership with a possessive determiner, for example my, your, his. In Egyptian, you add a posessive suffix to the end of the owned noun. When you add a suffix to a feminine noun, the **-a** ـَة is converted to a **-it-** ـِة, both in writing and speech. Here are some examples:

| English | on its own | | with pronoun | |
|---------|-----------|---|-------------|---|
| his book | kitaab | كِتا َب | kitaabuh | كِتا َب ُه |
| my wife | does not exist on its own | | miraati | مـِرا َتي |
| your(m) idea | fikra | فِكر َة | fikritak | فِكرِت َك |

See determiners for more information about possessive suffixes, and ownership for information about other methods of expressing ownership.

## Compound nouns

You can describe a noun using another noun, for example to say what material it is made from. The qualifying noun is placed after the main noun, and is always singular. If the main noun is preceded by **il-** ـِل ا the qualifying noun is also preceded by **il-** ـِل ا. Note that adding **il-** ـِل ا to a word affects the pronunciation if it begins with a sun letter.

| English | Arabic | |
|---|---|---|
| a plastic bag | <u>kees</u> blas<u>tik</u> | كيس بلاَستِـك |
| the plastic bag | il<u>kees</u> ilb<u>lastik</u> | اِلكيس اِلبلاَستِـك |
| plastic bags | 'ak<u>yaas</u> blas<u>tik</u> | أكياَس بلاَستِـك |
| the plastic bags | il'ak<u>yaas</u> ilb<u>lastik</u> | اِلأكياَس اِلبلاَستِـك |

# Pronouns

Pronouns are short words that are used to replace nouns in spoken English and Arabic. They are used when both the speaker and listener know what noun they represent, for example if the noun has already been used in an earlier sentence. This makes our speech clearer and more concise. In this example, **Ahmed** and **dog** are the nouns and **He** and **it** are pronouns:

<div align="center">

**Ahmed** has a dog. **He** walks with **it** every day
**'ahmad** Aan<u>du</u>h kalb <u>wa</u> **hu<u>ww</u>a** biyit<u>mash</u>sha maA<u>au</u>h kul <u>yoom</u>
أحمـّد عـَند ُه كـَلب و َ **هـُوّ** بـِيـِتمـَشّى مـَعـَ ُّه كـُل يوم

</div>

There are four main groups of pronoun:

- personal pronouns - I, me, mine, he, him, his etc
- demonstrative pronouns - this, that
- indefinite pronouns - somebody, anywhere
- relative pronouns - who, which, that

## Personal pronouns

In English, there are four versions of the personal pronoun (he, him, his, himself): in Egyptian, there is an additional version (to him).

| English | Egyptian | Form |
|---|---|---|
| I, he | hu<u>ww</u>a هـُوّ | subject |
| me, him | -uh ـُه | object |
| to me, to him | -<u>luh</u> لـُّه | indirect object |
| mine | <u>milk</u>-i مـِلكـي | posessive |
| myself, himself | <u>naf</u>suh نـَفسـُه | reflexive |

In Egyptian, there are separate forms of you for masculine, feminine and plural, but there is no neuter (**it**): instead, it is necessary to use the **he** or **she** form, depending on the gender of the noun.

### Subject pronouns

A subject is the noun that appears before the verb- the person or thing that is doing something.

<div align="center">

**I** like to read
**'<u>a</u>na** baa<u>hib</u> 'ak<u>tib</u>
أنا َ با َ حـِب أكتـِب

</div>

The subject pronouns are:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---------|----------|---|
| I | 'ana | أناَ |
| we | 'ihna | إحناَ |
| you(m) | 'inta | إنتَ |
| you(f) | 'inti | إنتِ |
| you(pl) | 'intu | إنتوا |
| he/it(m) | huwwa | هـُوَّ |
| she/it(f) | hiya | هـِيَ |
| they | humma | هـُمَّ |

Personal pronouns are not needed with perfect and x-imperfect verbs, as it is clear from the verb, but it is common to use them, especially for emphasis. They are often used with participles to make it clearer who is the subject.

## Pronoun suffixes

You can attach a pronoun as a suffix to a verb, preposition or conjunction. It is normally an object pronoun (me, him) when attached to a verb and a subject pronoun (I, he) when attached to a preposition or conjunction.

| Element | English | Egyptian | |
|---------|---------|----------|---|
| verb object | I love **her** | 'ana baahibb**aha** | أناَ باَحِبّهَـهَـ |
| preposition subject | Do **you** have a lighter? | maAak**walaeAa**? | مـَعَ كُو لَا عـَيَـة؟ |
| conjunction subject | I think that **you** are wrong | 'ana 'aftikir 'inn**ak** Galtan | أناَ أفتِكِر إنّ ـك غـَلْتاً |

The pronoun suffixes are:

| English | Suffix | |
|---------|--------|---|
| me | -i | ـِ |
| us | -na | ـنَ |
| You(m) | -ak | ـَك |
| You(f) | -ik | ـِك |
| You(pl) | -kum | ـكُـمْ |
| Him/it(m) | -u | ـُ |
| Her/it(f) | -ha | ـهاَ |
| Them | -hum | ـهُـمْ |

### Possessive pronoun

Words like **mine** and **hers** are possessive pronouns: they are used on their own to represent something that you own. They are similar to possessive determiners, which are used together with the noun they represent, for example **my book**. In Egyptian arabic, the equivalent of a possessive pronoun is formed by adding a possessive suffix to the owning-word **milk** مـِلك.

that house is **mine**

ilbiyt dah **milki**

اِلبـِيت دَه مـِلكي

### Reflexive pronouns (myself, yourself, himself)

Reflexive pronouns can be used after a noun or a verb. They are formed by adding a possessive suffix to the self-word **nafs** نـَفس.

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| I can look after myself | haaKud baali min nafsi | هاَخـُد باَلي مـِن نـَفسي |
| The man himself | ilraagil nafsuh | اِلراَجـِل نـَفسـُه |
| He did it by himself | huwwa Aamalha binafsuh | هـُوَّ عاَمـَلهاَ بـِنـَفسـُه |

## Demonstrative pronouns

These are the words that you use when you want to point at something.

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| this (man) | dah | دَه |
| this (woman, thing) | di | دي |
| those (men) | dool | دول |
| those (women,things) | deeh | ديه |

If you want to use one of these together with a noun, rather than to replace the noun, for example **this book**, you would use a demonstrative determiner in English and a demonstrative adjective in Egyptian.

| Element | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| noun | how much is **the book**? | bikaam **ilkitaab**? | بـِكاَم اِلكـِتاَب؟ |
| pronoun | how much is **this**? | bikaam **dah**? | بـِكاَم دَه؟ |
| adjective | how much is **this** book? | bikaam ilkitaab **dah** | بـِكاَم اِلكـِتاَب دَه |

## Indefinite pronouns

These are words like anybody, something etc. In Egyptian, these are made up of two words, but they are used in exactly the same way as in English.

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| somebody | <u>h</u>add | حَـدّ |
| anybody | 'ai <u>h</u>add | أي حَـدّ |
| nobody | <u>w</u>ala <u>h</u>add | وَلاَ حَـدّ |
| something | <u>haaga</u> | حَاجِـَة |
| anything | 'ai haa<u>ga</u> | أي حاَجِـَة |
| nothing | <u>w</u>ala haa<u>ga</u> | وَلاَ حاَ جِـَة |
| somewhere | ma<u>kaan</u> | مَـكاَن |
| anywhere | 'ai ma<u>kaan</u> | أي مَـكاَن |
| nowhere | <u>w</u>ala ma<u>kaan</u> | وَلاَ مَـكاَن |

## Relative pronoun

A relative pronoun forms a relative clause, which describes a noun in the main clause. The relative pronoun represents that noun within the relative clause. In this example, the who-clause describes **man** in the first clause and **who** replaces **he** in the second clause:

I know a **man** - main clause
**he** sells flowers - relative clause
I know a man **who** sells flowers

In English, there are three different relative pronouns, some of which have subject, object and possessive forms:

| Subject | Object | Possessive |
|---|---|---|
| who | whom | whose |
| which | which | whose |
| that | that | |

The relative pronoun **il<u>li</u>** الـّي is used to represent that, who and which

take the right turn **that** is coming (ie the next left)
<u>Kushsh</u> ilyi<u>meen</u> **il<u>li</u>** ga<u>y</u>i
خَـُشّ ا ِليـِمين ا ِلـّي جِـَي

I know the man **who** lives here
'ana Aae<u>r</u>if il<u>r</u>aagil **il<u>li</u>** saa<u>kin</u> hi<u>na</u>
أناَ عاَ رِ ف ا ِلرا َجِـل ا ِلـّي ساَ كِن هِـناَ

I know a man **whose** house is enormous
Aaarif raa<u>g</u>il **il<u>li</u>** hu<u>w</u>wa biy<u>tuh</u> ki<u>beer</u>
عاَرِ ف راَ جِـل ا ِلـّي هُـوّ ّ بِـيتـُه كِـبِير

Note that **il<u>li</u>** الـّي is not used for whom:

I know a man **whom** you can trust
'ana Aaa<u>r</u>if raa<u>g</u>il yim<u>kin</u> tu<u>thu</u>" feeh
أناَ عاَ رِ ف راَ جِـل يِـمكِن تـِثـُقّ فيه

Note that, in English, **that** can also be a demonstrative pronoun, a demonstrative determiner or a conjunction.

# Adjectives

Adjectives can be used in two ways: to describe something, or to specify which one of several you are talking about (a qualifying adjective).

In English, you put **the** in front of a qualifying adjective. In Egyptian, you put **il- ـل ا** before both the qualifiying adjective **and** the noun: the **il- ـل ا** before the adjective is the one that means that the adjective is specifying which one you mean. Note that adding **il- ـل ا** to a word affects the pronunciation if it begins with a sun letter.

| | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| describe | a cherry is red | ki<u>ree</u>za ham<u>ra</u> | كـِريز َة ح<u></u>ـَمر َة |
| describe | the ball is red | il<u>koo</u>ra ham<u>ra</u> | اِلكور َة حـَمر َة |
| describe | I want a red ball | aa<u>yiz</u> koo<u>ra</u> ham<u>ra</u> | َة يـِز كور َة حـَمر َة |
| qualify | I want **the** red ball | <u>A</u>aayiz **il<u>koo</u>**ra **il<u>ham</u>**ra | عاَيـِز ا ِلكور َة ا ِلحـَمر َة |
| describe | the book is big | il<u>kitaab</u> ki<u>beer</u> | اِلكـِتا َب كـِبير |
| describe | I have read a big book | 'ara't ki<u>taab</u> ki<u>beer</u> | قـَرا َءت كـِتا َب كـِبير |
| specify | I have read **the** big book | 'ara't **il<u>ki</u>**ta<u>ab</u> **il<u>ki</u>**beer | قـَرا َءت ا ِلكـِتا َب ا ِلكـِبير |
| describe | the man is blind | il<u>raa</u>gil 'a<u>A</u>ma | اِلرا َجـِل أعمى |
| describe | a blind man is outside | <u>raa</u>gil 'a<u>A</u>ma bar<u>ra</u> | را َجـِل أعمى بـَر ّا َ |
| qualify | **the** blind man is outside | **il**<u>raa</u>gil **il'a**Ama bar<u>ra</u> | ا ِلرا َجـِل ا ِلأعمى بـَر ّا َ |

## Masculine, feminine, plural

In English, there is only one form of an adjective, but in Egyptian, most adjectives must agree in gender and number with the noun that they relate to. Here are some examples:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| the man is clever | il<u>raa</u>gil shaa<u>Tir</u> | اِلرا َجـِل شا َطـِر |
| the woman is clever | il<u>sitt</u> shaT<u>ra</u> | اِلسـِتّ شا َطر َة |
| the children are clever | il'aT<u>faal</u> shaT<u>reen</u> | اِلأطفا َل شا َطـِرين |

The following table shows some typical feminine and plural forms:

| English | Egyptian | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | masculine | | feminine | | plural | |
| | | | -a | ـَة | -yn | ـين |
| big | ki<u>bee</u>r | كِبـير | ki<u>bee</u>r**a** | كِبير َة | ku<u>baa</u>r | كـُبـَا رَ |
| good | ku<u>way</u>is | كـُو َيـِس | ku<u>way</u>is**a** | كـُو َيـِس َة | kuwayis**een** | كـُو َيـِسين |
| red | 'a<u>hma</u>r | أحمـَر | <u>ham</u>r**a** | حـَمر َة | <u>hum</u>r | حـُمر |
| easy | <u>sah</u>l | سـَهل | <u>sah</u>l**a** | سـَهل َة | sah**leen** | سـَهلـين |
| nice | la<u>Tee</u>f | لـَطيف | la<u>Tee</u>f**a** | لـَطيف َة | lu<u>Taa</u>f | لـُطا َف |
| free | <u>faa</u>Di | فا َضي | <u>faa</u>Dy**a** | فا َضي َة | faDy**yin** | فا َضيـيـن |
| brown | <u>bun</u>ni | بـُنّي | <u>bun</u>ni | بـُنّي | <u>bun</u>ni | بـُنّي |

The feminine form of most adjectives is made by adding the suffix **-a** ـَة, and the plural is formed by adding the suffix **-yn** ـين. Note that adding a suffix may affect the <span style="color:blue">pronunciation</span>.

The plural form of an adjective is normally only used for many people: for many things, the feminine form is used. Animals are half-way between: in the same way as an English person might say 'he' or 'it' about a dog, Egyptians could use either the plural or the feminine form to talk about a group of animals

| English | Egyptian | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | thing plural | | person plural | |
| the dogs are big | ilki<u>laeb</u> ki<u>bee</u>r**a** | اِلكـِلا َب كـِبير َة | ilki<u>laeb</u> ku<u>baa</u>r | اِلكـِلا َب كـُبـَا رَ |
| the dogs are good | ilki<u>laeb</u> kuwayis**a** | اِلكـِلا َب كـُو َيـِس َة | ilki<u>laeb</u> kuwayis**een** | اِلكـِلا َب كـُو َيـِسين |

Some nouns, for example **dib<u>baen</u>** دِبّا َن (flies) are collective nouns- a singular form is used to talk about a group of them. When an adjective is applied, the singular form of the adjective is used, for example:

<div align="center">

the flies are disgusting
ildib<u>baen</u> mu'<u>rif</u>
اِلد ِبّا َن مـُقـّر ِف

</div>

We will look at some of the common exceptions later. Note that some words, for example brown **<u>bun</u>ni** بـُنّي are invariable- you use the same form for masculine, feminine and plural.

# Countries

A country name is usually converted to an adjective by adding **-i** ي. This can be used to refer to a person, a language or something from a country.

| English | Country | | m | | f | | pl | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | -i | ي | -iya | ـِيـَة | iyyin | ِيـيـِن |
| Egypt | maSr | مـَصر | maSri | مـَصري | maSriya | مـَصر ِيـة | maSriyyin | مـَصر ِيـيـِن |
| Greece | ilyoonaan | الِيونا َن | yoonaani | يوناَني | yoonaaniya | يوناَنـِيـَة | yoonaaniyyin | يوناَنـِيـيـِن |
| Italy | 'eeTalya | إيطاَليا َ | 'eeTaali | إيطاَلي | 'eeTalya | إيطاَلِيـَة | 'eeTalyyin | إيطاَلِييـِن |
| Sweden | ilsiweed | السـِويد | siweedi | سـِويدي | siweedya | سـِويدِيـَة | siweedyyin | سـِويدِييـِن |
| the North | ilshimaal | الشـِماَل | shimaali | شـِماَلي | shimaaliya | شـِماَلـِيـَة | shimaaliyyin | شـِماَلـِيـيـِن |
| Europe | 'uorubba | أُور ُبّاَ | 'uoroobbi | أُورُوبّي | 'uoroobbiya | أُورُوبّـِيـَة | 'uorubbiyyin | أُورُبّـِيـيـِن |
| Irregular ones... | | | | | | | | |
| India | ilhind | الهـِند | hindi | هـِندي | hindya | هـِندِيـَة | hunood | هـُنود |
| America | 'amreeka | أمريكاَ | (people) 'amreeki | أمريكي | 'amreekiyya | أمريكـِيـَة | 'amreekiyyin | أمريكـِييـِن |
| | | | (things) 'amrikaani | أمرـِكاَني | | | | |
| Russia | roosya | روسياَ | roos | روس | roosiyya | روسـِيـَة | (things,men) roos | روس |
| | | | | | | | (women) roosyaet | روسياَت |

For some countries, eg England, the adjective is made from the collective noun. Here are some examples:

| English | Country | | m | | f | | collective noun | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | -i | ي | -iya | ـِيـَة | | |
| England | 'ingiltira | إنجـِلتـِراَ | 'ingileezi | إنجـِليزي | 'ingileeziya | إنجـِليز ِيـَة | 'ingileez | إنجـِليز |
| Arabia | Aarabi | عـَر َبي | Aarabi | عـَر َبى | Aarabiya | عـَر َبـِيـَة | Aarab | عـَر َب |
| Russia | roosya | روسياَ | roosi | روسي | roosya | روسـِيـَة | roos | روس |
| Germany | 'almanya | ألماَنياَ | 'almaani | ألماَني | 'almanya | ألماَنـِيـَة | 'almaan | ألماَن |
| Spain | 'asbanya | أسباَنياَ | 'asbaani | أسباَني | 'asbanya | أسباَنـِيـَة | 'asbaan | أسباَن |

For countries ending with two consonants and alif, for example **faransa** فَـرَ َنـسا, the ending is -**aawi** ـا َوي.

| English | Country | | m | | f | | pl | |
|---------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | -aawi | ـا َوي | -aawiya | ـا َو ِيـَة | -aawiyyin | ـا َو ِييا ِن |
| Austria | ilnimsa | اِلنِـمسا | nimsaawi | نِـمسا ِوي | nimsawiyya | نِـمسـَو ِييَة | nimsawiyyin | نِـمسـَو ِيـيـن |
| France | faransa | فَـرَ َنـسا | faransaawi | فَـرَ َنسا ِوي | faransawiya | فَـرَ َنسـَو ِيـَة | faransawiyyin | فَـرَ َنسـَو ِيـيـن |

One common usage of the country adjective is to talk about a person from that country. Here are some examples:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---------|----------|---|
| an Egyptian man | waahid maSri | واَحـيِد مـَصري |
| an Egyptian woman | wahda maSrya | واَحـدَة مـَصريـَة |
| an Englishman | waahid 'ingilizi | واَحـيِد إنجـيِلـيِزي |
| an Englishwoman | wahda 'ingileezya | واَحـدَة إنجـيِلـيـزيـَة |
| a Frenchman | waahid faransawi | واَحـيِد فَـرَ َنسـَوي |
| a Frenchwoman | wahda faransawiya | واَحـدَة فَـرَ َنسـَو ِيـَة |

The feminine and plural are used only for people. For inanimate objects, the masculine form only is used. Here are some examples:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---------|----------|---|
| a Greek boat | markib yoonaani | مـَركـِيب يونا َني |
| French cheese | gibna faransaawi | جـيِنـَة فَـرَ َنسا َوي |
| American cars | ilAarabiyaat 'amrikaani | اِلعـَرَ َبيِا َت أمرِكا َني |

# Colours

The main colours follow a pattern. Here are some examples:

| English | m | | f | | pl | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C=consonant | aCCaC | | CaCCao | | CuCC | |
| white | 'abyaD | أبيـَض | biyDa | بـيِضـَة | biyD | بـيِض |
| black | 'iswid | إسوِد | sooda | سودَة | suwd | سـُود |
| yellow | 'aSfar | أصفـَر | Safra | صـَفرَة | Sufr | صـُفر |
| blue | 'azra' | أزرَق | zar'a | زَرقـَة | zur' | زُرق |
| green | 'aKDar | أخضـَر | KaDra | خـَضرَة | KuDr | خـُضر |
| red | 'ahmar | أحمـَر | hamra | حـَمرَة | humr | حـُمر |

Colours derived from a material or thing just have a **-i ي** added. They are invariable: the feminine and plural form is the same as the masculine form.

| English | m/f/pl | |
|---|---|---|
| brown<br>coffee | <u>bun</u>ni | بـُـنّـي |
| gold | zah<u>a</u>bi | ذَهـَـبي |
| silver | <u>faDD</u>i | فـَـضّـي |
| copper | na<u>haa</u>si | نـَحاَسي |
| light grey | ru<u>maa</u>di | رُماَدي |
| dark grey<br>lead | ru<u>Saa</u>Si | رُصاَصي |
| dark green<br>olive | <u>zee</u>ti | زيتي |
| dark blue | <u>kuh</u>li | كـُـحلي |
| pale blue<br>milk | la<u>ba</u>ni | لـَـبَـني |
| dark red<br>wine | ni<u>bee</u>ti | نـِـبيتي |
| chestnut | kasta<u>naa</u>'i | كـَـستـَـنا<br>َئي |
| light brown<br>honey | Aa<u>sa</u>li | عـَـسـَـلي |
| purple<br>violet | banaf<u>si</u>gi بـَـنـَـفسـِـجي |
| orange | burtu'<u>aa</u>li بـُـرتـُـقاَلي |
| deep purple<br>aubergine | bitan<u>gaa</u>ni بـِـتـَـنجاَني |

# Personal attributes

Personal attributes or disabilities follow the same pattern as the basic colours:

| English | m | | f | | pl | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| C=consonant | aCCaC | | CaCCao | | CuCC | |
| foolish | 'ahbal | أهبـَل | habla | هـَبـَلـَة | hubl | هـُبـْل |
| squinting | 'ahwal | أحوَل | hoola' | حولاَء | huwl | حـُوْل |
| bald | 'a'raA | أقرَع | 'arAa | قـَرَعـَة | 'urA | قـُرُع |
| bald | 'aSlaA | أصلـَع | SalAa' | صـَلـَعا َء | SulA | صـُلـْع |
| fair skin blonde | 'ash'ar | أشقـَر | sha'ara | شـَقـَرَ ة | shu'r | شـُقْر |
| dark skin brunette | 'asmar | أسمـَر | samra | سـَمرَ ة | sumr | سـُمـْر |
| frizzy haired | 'akrat | أكرَت | karta | كـَرتـَة | kurt | كـُرْت |
| left handed | 'ashwal | أشوَل | shoola | شولـَة | shool | شوَل |
| right handed | 'aeeman | أيمـَن | yimna | يـِمنـَة | yumn | يـُمْن |
| lame | 'aArag | أعرَج | Aarga | عـَرَجـَة | Aurg | عـُرْج |
| blind | 'aAma | أعمى | Aamya | عـَمَيـَة | Aumi | عـُمـي |
| deaf | 'aTrash | أطرَش | Tursha' | طـُرْشا َء | Tursh | طـُرْش |
| deaf | 'aSam | أصـَم | Sama' | صـَما َء | Summ | صـُمّ |
| mute | 'aKras | أخرَس | Karsa | خـَرَسـَة | Kurs | خـُرْس |

# Slightly, Very... Extremely...

The following adverbs can be placed after the adjective:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---------|----------|---|
| slightly | shwaya | شوَيـَة |
| moderately | bi'iAtidaal | بـِإعتـِدا َل |
| very | 'awi | قـَوي |
| | KaaliS | خاَلـِص |
| extremely | giddan | جـِدّا ً |
| | Aail'aKir | عـَا لِأخـِر |
| too | 'awi | قـَوي |

Here are some examples:

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| the car is **slightly** damaged | ilAarabiya 'itDarrarit **shwaya** اِلعَرَبِيـَة إتضـَرّ رَ ت شوَ يـِّـَة |
| the carpet was **very** expensive | ilsigaada kaanit Galya **'awi** اِلسـِجا دَ ةَ كا نـِت غا لِيـَة قـَوي |
| he is **extremely** rich | huwwa Gani **giddan** هـُوّ َ غـَني جـِـدّاً |
| this house is **too** big | ilbiyt dih kibeer **'awi** اِلبِيت دِ ه كِيبِير قـَوي |

You may have noticed that the word **qawy** has two meanings: **very** and **too**. This sometimes causes confusion when Egyptians speak English: they say, for example, **too much** when they mean **very much**.

## Comparatives

In English we take an adjective like **big** and add suffixes **-er** to make comparative **bigger** and **-est** to make the superlative **biggest**. In Egyptian there is one word, a comparative, that is used for both. The context indicates the meaning.

We can compare two things using **min** مـِين, which is equivalent to **than** in English:

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| Ahmad is **taller than** me | 'ahmad **'aTwal min**ni أحمـَد أطوَ ل مـِنّي |
| he is **more stupid than** I thought | huwwa **'aGba min** makunt faakir هـُوّ َ أغبى مـِين مـَكـُنت فا كـِر |

We can also make comparison without specifying the second thing like this:

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| Ahmad is a lot **taller** | 'ahmad **'aTwal** bikiteer أحمـَد أطوَ ل بـِكـِتير |
| the weather will be a little **better** tomorrow | ilgaww haykoon **'ahsan** shuwaya bukra اِلجـَوّ حـَيَكون أحسـَّن شـُو َيـَة بـُكرَ ة |

For the superlative (best, biggest) the comparative is used immediately before a noun:

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| mohammed is the **tallest** student | muhammad **'aTwal** Taalib مـُحـَمـّـَد أطوَ ل طا لِـِب |
| he is the **youngest** boy | huwwa **'aSGar** walad هـُوّ َ أصغـَر وَ لـَد |
| the **tallest** student is 1m90 | ilTaalib **il'aTwal** Toolooh mitr 1 wa 90 santi اِلطا لِـِب ا لأطوَ ل طولوه مِـِتر ١ و َ ٩٠ سـِنتي |
| the **most expensive** drink is 20 pounds | ilmashroob **il'aGla** 20 gineeh اِلمَـَشروب ا لأغلى ٢٠ جـِنِيه |
| this is the **prettiest** dress in the shop | dih **'ahla** fustaan fi ilmahal دِه أحلى فـُـِستا نَ في ا لِمـَحـَل |
| it was the **best** day in my life | kaan **'ahsan** yoom fi hayaati كاَن أحسـَّن يوم في حـَيَا تي |

# Making comparatives

As you may have noticed from the previous examples, the comparative is often derived from the adjective as follows:

| English | adjective | | comparative | |
|---------|-----------|---|-------------|---|
| big | kibeer | كِبِير | 'akbar | أكبَر |
| easy | sahl | سَهل | 'ashal | أسهَل |
| tall | Taweel | طَويل | 'aTwal | أطوَل |
| classy | raaQi | راقي | 'arQa | أرقى |
| exceptions | | | | |
| good | kuwayyis | كُوَيِّس | 'ahsan | أحسَن |

For adjectives with two consonants and ending in **-i** ي or **-w** و, the final letter changes to alif-layena **-a** ى.

| English | adjective | | comparative | |
|---------|-----------|---|-------------|---|
| pretty | hilw | حِلو | 'ahla | أحلى |
| expensive | Gaali | غاَلي | 'aGla | أغلى |
| loud/high | Aaali | عاَلي | 'aAla | أعلى |
| rich | Gani | غِنَي | 'aGna | أغنى |
| healthy | Sahi | صِحَي | no comp | |
| stupid | Gabi | غِبَي | 'aGba | أغبى |
| clever | zaki | ذَكي | 'azka | أذكى |

For adjectives with three consonants where the last two consonants are the same, the middle vowel is replaced with a fatha **-a** ◌َ.

| English | adjective | | comparative | |
|---------|-----------|---|-------------|---|
| serious | gadd | جَدّ | no comp | |
| new | gideed | جِديد | 'agdad | أجدَد |
| important | muhimm | مُهِمّ | 'ahamm | أهَمّ |
| numerous | Aadeed | عَديد | no comp | |
| lucky | mahZooZ | مَحظوظ | no comp | |
| popular | mahboob | مَحبوب | 'ahabb | أحَبّ |
| light | Kafeef | خَفيف | 'aKaff | أخَفّ |
| delicious | lazeez | لَذيذ | 'alazz | ألَذّ |
| few | 'alayil | قَلَيِّل | 'a'aal | أقاَل |

In English, it is not possible to make a comparative in the usual way from some adjectives, for example **interesting**: instead, we say **more interesting**. The same is true in Egyptian: the words **'aktar** أكتــَر - **more** and **'a'aal** أقا ـَل - **less** are used with the adjective. Here are examples of adjectives that are handled this way

| Group | Example |
|---|---|
| participles beginning with **m-** ـم | the contract is **more acceptable** like this<br>ilAa'd **ma'bool 'aktar** kidah<br><br>الـِعـَقد مــَقبول أكتــَر كـِد َه |
| participles beginning with **ta-** تـَ | I am **less traditional** than you<br>'ana **ta'lidi 'a'aal** minnak<br><br>أنا َ تــَقلـِدي أقا ـَل مـِنِّـَك |
| adjectives beginning with **'a-** أـ | he gets **more selfish** every day<br>huwwa biyib'a **'anaani 'aktar** kul yoom<br><br>هـُو ّ َ بـِيـِيـبقا َ أنا َني أكتــَر كـُل يوم |
| adjectives ending with **-an** ـا | Sarah is **more tired** than Ahmed<br>saara **taAbaana 'aktar** min 'ahmad<br><br>سا َر َة تــَعبا َنـَة أكتــَر مـِن أحمـَد |

# Verbs

A verb tells you what is happening- for example, reading, walking etc. In Egyptian, the general meaning of a word is defined by the consonants, and several related words may contain this set of letters. For example, the letters ktb are used to make the words write, type, book, writer, written, writing, office and desk. The exact meaning is affected by the vowels, prefixes and suffixes (extra bits at the beginning and the end). Here are some of the ways the exact meaning can change for verbs:

- tense - when something happens (past, present, future)
- case - who is doing it (I, you, he, etc)
- mode - must, could etc
- pronouns - who is doing it, who is having it done to them
- negation - say something is NOT happening

Most of the examples in this chapter use the verb **katab** كَـتَـب, which means **write**: about 30% of verbs follow this pattern.

The web site www.lisaanmasry.org and the apps that you can download from the web site all provide full details for the majority of verbs.

## Pronouns

There are three main types of pronouns that can be used with verbs:

- subject - I, we, you, he, she, it, they
- object - me, us, you, him, her, it, them
- indirect object - to me, to us, to you, to him, to her, to it, to them

In Egyptian, the subject pronoun is a separate word before the verb: the object and indirect object pronouns are attached to the end of the verb. Here are a some examples:

| Pronoun | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Subject | I know Ahmed | **'ana** Aaa<u>rif</u> 'ah<u>mad</u> | أناﹾ عاﹶ رِ ف أحمَـّد |
| Subject, object | I know **him** | **'ana** Aarf<u>uh</u> | أناﹾ عاﹶ رِ ف ُه |
| Object | Ahmed saw **her** yesterday | 'ah<u>mad</u> shaf<u>ha</u> 'im<u>baa</u>rih | أحمَـّد شا َفها ﹶ إمبا َر رِ ح |
| Object | Sarah knows **him** | <u>saa</u>ra Aarf<u>ah</u> | سا َرة عا َر رِ ف َه |
| Object, Indirect | give **it** to **me**! | iddee**hooli** | اِ دّيهولي |

## Subject pronoun

The subject pronoun appears before the verb or participle.

| English | Egyptian | |
|---------|----------|---|
| I | 'ana | أَناَ |
| we | 'ihna | إحناَ |
| you(m) | 'inta | إنتَ |
| you(f) | 'inti | إنتِ |
| you(pl) | 'intu | إنتوا |
| he/it(m) | huwwa | هـُـوّ |
| she/it(f) | hiya | هـِـي |
| they | humma | هـُـمّ |

## Object pronoun

You can attach an object pronoun (for example me or him) to the end of an imperative, verb or participle. See pronouns for more information.

<div align="center">

Ahmed envies **me**

'ahmad biyihsad**ni**

أحمـَـد بـِـيـِـحسـَـدني

</div>

| English | Suffix | |
|---------|--------|---|
| me | -ni | ـني |
| us | -na | ـناَ |
| you(m) | -ak | ـَـك |
| you(f) | -ik | ـِـك |
| you(pl) | -kum | ـكـُـم |
| him/it(m) | -uh | ـُـه |
| her/it(f) | -ha | ـهاَ |
| them | -hum | ـهـُـم |

If there is an **-i-** ـِـ before the last consonant and the suffix starts with a vowel, the **-i-** ـِـ is dropped. If the verb requires a preposition (to, from etc) the object goes on the preposition.

Here are some examples:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| show **me**! | warr<u>ee</u>**ni** | وَرّيني |
| nobody helped **us** | ma<u>h</u>addish saa<u>A</u>id**na** | مَحَدّ شْ سا عِدْنا |
| I saw **you(m)** | '<u>a</u>na shuf<u>t</u>**ak** | أنا شُفْت كَ |
| I love **you(f)** | '<u>a</u>na ba<u>h</u>ibb**ik** | أنا بَحِيبّ ِك |
| I know **him** | '<u>a</u>na Aarf**uh** | أنا عا رِف ُه |
| I told **them** | '<u>a</u>na 'ul<u>til</u>**hum** | أنا قُلْتِلهُم |

## Indirect object

Some verbs require two objects- for example:

<div align="center">

give it(f) **to me**
iddee<u>haa</u>**li**
اِدّيها لي

</div>

**It** is the direct object and **to me** is the indirect object. The indirect object suffixes are as follows:

| English | Suffix | |
|---|---|---|
| to me | -<u>li</u> | لي |
| to us | -<u>li</u>na | لِنا |
| to you(m) | -<u>la</u>k | لَك |
| to you(f) | -<u>li</u>k | لِك |
| to you(pl) | -<u>lu</u>ku | لُكُ |
| to him/it(m) | -<u>lu</u> | لُ |
| to her/it(f) | -<u>la</u>ha | لَها |
| to them | -<u>lu</u>hum | لُهُم |

## Tenses

In both English and Egyptian, a verb has different tenses to indicate when something happens- in the past, now or in the future. The usage of each tense will be explained in more detail later. Here are some examples using **katab** كَـتَـب:

| Form | Example | Meaning | No of cases |
|---|---|---|---|
| perfect | katab كَـتَـب | he wrote | 8 (i/we/ you, etc) |
| simple imperfect | yiktib يِـكتِـب | used with modals - eg he must write and **kaan** كا َن - he used to write | 8 (i/we/ you, etc) |
| bi-imperfect | biyiktib بِـيِـكتِـب | he is writing he writes he knows how to write used with **kaan** كا َن conditionals: if I had a pen, I would write | 8 (i/we/ you, etc) |
| ha-imperfect | hayiktib هَـيِـكتِـب | he will write used with **kaan** كا َن | 8 (i/we/ you, etc) |
| active participle | kaatab كاَتَـب | (he is) writing | 3 (m/f/pl) |
| passive participle | maktoo مَـكتوب | (it is) written | 3 (m/f/pl) |
| imperative | iktib اكتِـب | write! | 3 (m/f/pl) |
| polite request | miktib مِـكتِـب | will you please write | |
| verbal noun | kitaaba كِـتاَبَـة | (the box is covered with) writing | 2 (s/pl) |
| place | maktab مَـكتَـب | writing place (desk or office) | 2 (s/pl) |

## Case

The two main tenses of a verb are the perfect and the simple imperfect: the bi-and ha- imperfect just have prefixes added to the simple imperfect. The usage of these tenses will be explained in more detail in the section on time. Here is the **he** case of each tense:

| Tense | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| perfect | he wrote | huwwa katab | هـُوّ َ كَـتَـب |
| simple imperfect | he must write | huwwa laazim yiktib | هـُوّ َ لا َز ِم يِـكتِـب |
| bi-imperfect | he writes | huwwa biyiktib | هـُوّ َ بِـيِـكتِـب |
| ha-imperfect | he will write | huwwa hayiktib | هـُوّ َ هَـيِـكتِـب |

There are eight possible cases for each tense, corresponding to the eight pronoun forms (I/we/ you/he, etc). Remember that the three imperfect forms are very similar.

## Perfect

Here is an example of the perfect, which is used for things that occurred in the past.

| Perfect | | |
|---|---|---|
| English | Pronoun | Verb |
| I wrote | 'ana    أناَ | ka<u>tab</u>t    كـَتـَبت |
| we wrote | 'ihna    إحناَ | ka<u>tab</u>na    كـَتـَبنا |
| you(m) wrote | 'inta    إنتَ | ka<u>tab</u>t    كـَتـَبت |
| you(f) wrote | 'inti    إنتِ | ka<u>tab</u>ti    كـَتـَبتي |
| you(pl) wrote | 'intu    إنتوا | ka<u>tab</u>tu    كـَتـَبتوا |
| he/it(m) wrote | hu<u>w</u>wa    هـُوّ ّ | <u>ka</u>tab    كـَتـَب |
| she/it(f) wrote | <u>hi</u>ya    هـِيَ | ka<u>tab</u>it    كـَتـَب ِت |
| they wrote | <u>hum</u>ma    هـُمّاَ | ka<u>tab</u>u    كـَتـَبوا |

## Simple imperfect

The imperfect has no meaning on its own, but is used with other verbal forms in five ways:

- with **<u>kaan</u>** كاَن for things that happened in the past
- with **'iza kaan** إذا َ كاَن for conditionals
- with modals- must, could, should etc and modal verbs- like, going to.
- with bi-prefix for things happening now
- with ha-prefix for things that will happen

Here is an example with **<u>laa</u>zim** لا َز ِم, which means **must**.

| Simple Imperfect | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| English | Pronoun | modal | Verb |
| I must write | 'ana    أناَ | <u>laa</u>zim    لا َز ِم | **'a**ktib    أكتـِب |
| we must write | 'ihna    إحناَ | <u>laa</u>zim    لا َز ِم | **ni**ktib    نـِكتـِب |
| you(m) must write | 'inta    إنتَ | <u>laa</u>zim    لا َز ِم | **ti**ktib    تـِكتـِب |
| you(f) must write | 'inti    إنتِ | <u>laa</u>zim    لا َز ِم | **ti**k<u>ti</u>bi    تـِكتـِبي |
| you(pl) must write | 'intu    إنتوا | <u>laa</u>zim    لا َز ِم | **ti**k<u>ti</u>bu    تـِكتـِبوا |
| he/it(m) must write | hu<u>w</u>wa    هـُوّ ّ | <u>laa</u>zim    لا َز ِم | **yi**ktib    يـِكتـِب |
| she/it(f) must write | <u>hi</u>ya    هـِيَ | <u>laa</u>zim    لا َز ِم | **ti**ktib    تـِكتـِب |
| they must write | <u>hum</u>ma    هـُمّاَ | <u>laa</u>zim    لا َز ِم | **yi**k<u>ti</u>bu    يـِكتـِبوا |

The English words **must** and **might** and the equivalent Egyptian words **<u>laa</u>zim** لا َز ِم and **yimkin** يـِمكـِن are proper modals: they are the same for all cases. Later on, you will see how to use participles and verbs in the same way as modals, and you will see that they do change to match the case.

## bi-imperfect

For the majority of verbs, the bi-imperfect is used to describe things happening now, and for habitual actions. See active participles for the exceptions

It is the same as the simple imperfect, with a **bi-** بـ in front. Note that the vowels in the the beginning of the imperfect may change in some verbs when the prefix is added.

| bi-imperfect | | |
|---|---|---|
| English | Pronoun | Verb |
| I write | 'ana أناَ | **ba**ktib بـكتـِب |
| we write | 'ihna إحناَ | **bi**niktib بـنـِكتـِب |
| you(m) write | 'inta إنتَ | **bi**tiktib بـتـِكتـِب |
| you(f) write | 'inti إنتِ | **bi**tiktibi بـتـِكتـِبي |
| you(pl) write | 'intu إنتوا | **bi**tiktibu بـتـِكتـِبو ا |
| he/it(m) writes | huwwa هـُوَّ | **bi**yiktib بـيـِكتـِب |
| she/it(f) writes | hiya هـِيَ | **bi**tiktib بـتـِكتـِب |
| they write | humma هـُمّاَ | **bi**yiktibu بـيـِكتـِبو ا |

## ha-imperfect

The ha-imperfect is used for things that will happen at some time in the future.

It is the same as the simple imperfect, with **ha-** هـ in front. Egyptian spelling is somewhat whimsical: some people use **ha-** حـ instead. Note that the vowels in the the beginning of the imperfect may change in some verbs when the prefix is added.

| ha-imperfect | | |
|---|---|---|
| English | Pronoun | Verb |
| I will write | 'ana أناَ | **ha**ktib هـكتـِب |
| we will write | 'ihna إحناَ | **ha**niktib هـنـِكتـِب |
| you(m) will write | 'inta إنتَ | **ha**tiktib هـتـِكتـِب |
| you(f) will write | 'inti إنتِ | **ha**tiktibi هـتـِكتـِبي |
| you(pl) will write | 'intu إنتوا | **ha**tiktibu هـتـِكتـِبو ا |
| he/it(m) will write | huwwa هـُوَّ | **ha**yiktib هـيـِكتـِب |
| she/it(f) will write | hiya هـِيَ | **ha**tiktib هـتـِكتـِب |
| they will write | humma هـُمّاَ | **ha**yiktibu هـيـِكتـِبو ا |

# is/was/will be

As mentioned earlier, there is no word for **is** in Egyptian. There are, however, words for **was** - **kaan** كَاْن and **will be** - **ha<u>k</u>oon** هـَـيـكون.

## kaan

**kaan** كَاْن can be used on its own to talk about some situation in the past, or it can be used with the imperfect and bi-imperfect to move the meaning of the verb into the past and also for conditionals, and with the ha-imperfect to indicate something that almost or nearly happened.

| kaan | | |
|---|---|---|
| English | Pronoun | Verb |
| I was | aa<u>na</u> اَنَاَ | <u>kunt</u> كـُـنت |
| we were | ih<u>na</u> اِحناَ | <u>kun</u>na كـُـنّـاَ |
| you(m) were | 'inta إنتَ | <u>kunt</u> كـُـنت |
| you(f) were | 'inti إنت ِ | <u>kunt</u>i كـُـنتي |
| you(pl) were | 'intu إنتوا | <u>kunt</u>u كـُـنتوا |
| he/it(m) was | <u>h</u>uwa هـُـوَ | <u>kaan</u> كاَن |
| she/it(f) was | <u>h</u>iya هـِـيَ | <u>kaan</u>it كاَنـِـت |
| they were | <u>h</u>umma هـُـمّـاَ | <u>ka</u>nu كاَنوا |

Here are some examples:

| | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | he **was** here | <u>kaan</u> hi<u>na</u> | كاَن هـِـناَ |
| | I **was** too tired | <u>kunt</u> taAbaan 'a<u>w</u>i | كـُـنت تـَـعباَن قـَـوي |
| | the party **was** good | ilhafla <u>kaan</u>it kuwa<u>y</u>isa | اِلحـَـفلـَـة كاَنـِـت كـُـوَيـِـسـَـة |
| preposition | there **was** water, but it's finished | <u>kaan</u> fi ma<u>y</u>aah wa <u>Kil</u>Sit | كاَن في مـَـياَه وَ خـِـلِصـِـت |
| preposition | we **had** a house | <u>kaan</u> Aan<u>di</u>na biyt | كاَن عـَـنَد ِناَ بـِـيت |
| bi-imperfect | he **was** smoking a cigarette | <u>kaan</u> bi<u>yish</u>rab seegaara | كاَن بـِـيـِـشرَب سيجاَرَة |
| bi-imperfect | he **used to** smoke cigarettes | <u>kaan</u> bi<u>yish</u>rab sigaayar | كاَن بـِـيـِـشرَب سـِـجاَيـَـر |
| ha-imperfect | I **almost** ran him over | <u>kunt</u> hadoosuh | كـُـنت هـَـدوسـُـه |

Note that, for prepositional sentences, **kaan** كاَن does not change with the subject of the sentence - it is always **kaan** كاَن - **it was**.

## haykwn

**hay<u>koon</u>** هـَـيـكون simply means **will be**. Here are some examples:

| haykwn | | |
|---|---|---|
| **English** | **Pronoun** | **verb** |
| I will be | aa<u>na</u> اَـناَ | ha<u>koon</u> هـِـكون |
| we will be | ih<u>na</u> اِـحناَ | han<u>koon</u> هـَـنكون |
| you(m) will be | 'in<u>ta</u> إنتَ | hat<u>koon</u> هـَـتكون |
| you(f) will be | 'in<u>ti</u> إنتِ | hat<u>koo</u>ni هـَـتكوني |
| you(pl) will be | 'in<u>tu</u> إنتوا | hat<u>koo</u>nu هـَـتكونوا |
| he/it(m) will be | <u>hu</u>wa هـُـوَ | hay<u>koon</u> هـَـيكون |
| she/it will be(f) | <u>hi</u>ya هـِـيَ | hat<u>koon</u> هـَـتكون |
| they will be | <u>hum</u>ma هـُـمّاَ | hay<u>koo</u>nu هـَـيكونوا |

# Adverbs

A verb explains what is being done: adverbs can be used to specify how, when, where and in what manner it is being done. There can be more than one adverb- they are placed after the verb. Here are some examples.

| | Example | |
|---|---|---|
| direction | Ahmed is going **up** (stairs)<br>'ahmad TaalaA **foo'** | أحمـَد طا كـَـع **فوق** |
| position | Ahmed is coming **here**<br>'ahmad gayi **hina** | أحمـَد جـَيي **هـِنا** |
| time | Ahmed will come **tomorrow evening**<br>'ahmad hayigi **bukra biilleel** | أحمـَد حـَيـِجي **بـُكر** ة بـيا **لـّيل** |
| frequency | Ahmed **always** walks<br>'ahmad biyimshi **dayman** | أحمـَد بـِيـِمشي **د يما** |
| quality | Ahmed walks **quickly**<br>'ahmad biyimshi **bisuraAa** | أحمـَد بـِيـِمشي **بـِسـُر عـَة** |
| degree | Ahmed walks **extremely** quickly<br>'ahmad biyimshi bisuraAa **giddan** | أحمـَد بـِيـِمشي بـِسـُر عـَة **جـِد** ا |
| | Ahmed **always** walks **slowly** upstairs **in the evening**<br>'ahmad biyiTaalaA ilsalaalim **dayman** bishweesh **fi illeel** | أحمـَد بـِيـِطا كـَـع ا لِسـَلا كـِم **د يما** بـِشويش **في ا لـّيل** |

## direction

Direction adverbs can be used with verbs like **go**

| English | Egyptian | | English example | Egyptian example |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| up | foo' | فوق | I am going **upstairs** | 'ana TaalaA **foo'**<br>أناَ طا كـَـع **فوق** |
| down | taht | تـَـحت | he dived **down** | GiTis **taht**<br>غـِطـِس **تـَـحت** |
| left | shamaal | شـَما َل | turn **left**! | Kushsh **shamaal**<br>خـُشّ **شـَما َل** |
| right | yimeen | يـِمين | look **right**! | buSS **yimeen**<br>بـُصّ **يـِمين** |
| straight ahead | Aala Tool | عـَلى طول | go(walk) **straight ahead** | 'imshi **Aala Tool**<br>إمشي**عـَلى طول** |

## location

Location adverbs can be used with verbs like **go**

| English | Egyptian | English example | Egyptian example |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| here | hina<br>هـِنا | come **here**! | taAala **hina**<br>تـَعا لـَى هـِنا |
| there | hinaak<br>هـِنا َك | I have to go **there** tomorrow | laazim 'aruwh **hinaak** bukrah<br>لاَز ِم أر ُوح هـِنا َك بـُكر َه |

## time

Time adverbs are used to specify when you do something: they can be used with almost any verb. Here are some examples:

| English | Egyptian | Example |
|---|---|---|
| immediately | haalan<br>حا َلاً | I will open it **immediately**<br>haftahuh **haalan**<br>هـَفتـَحـُه حا َلاً |
| now | dilwa'ti<br>د ِلو َقتي | we are ready **now**<br>'ihna gahzeen **dilwa'ti**<br>إحنا َجا َهـِزين د ِلو َقتي |
| already | no equivalent | he (is) **already here**<br>huwwa mawgood<br>هـُو َّ مـَوجود |
| today | ilnaharda<br>ا ِلنـَها َرد َة | the party is **this evening**<br>ilhafla **ilnaharda** biilleel<br>اِلحـَفلـَة ا ِلنـَها َرد َة بـِيا ِلّيل |
| tomorrow | bukrah<br>بـُكر َه | I will go to Alexandria **tomorrow**<br>haruwh il'iskandiraaya **bukrah**<br>هـَر ُوح ا ِلإسكـَند ِرا َيـَة بـُكر َه |
| the day after tomorrow | baAd<br>bukrah<br>بـَعد بـُكر َه | I will come back **the day after tomorrow**<br>'ana hargaA **baAd bukrah**<br>أناَ هـَرجـَع بـَعد بـُكر َه |
| yesterday | 'imbaarih<br>إمبا َر ِح | she arrived **yesterday**<br>waSalt **'imbaarih**<br>و َصـَلت إمبا َر ِح |
| day before yesterday | 'awil<br>'imbaarih<br>أو ِل إمبا َر ِح | I bought it the **day before yesterday**<br>'ashtareetuh **'awil 'imbaarih**<br>أشتـَريتـُه أو ِل إمبا َر ِح |
| next week | il'usbwaA<br>illigaai<br>ا ِلأ ُسبو َع ا<br>لـّـِجا َي | we will go home **next week**<br>hanrawwah **il'usbwaA illigaai**<br>هـَنر َو َّح ا ِلأ ُسبو َع ا ِلـّـِجا َي |
| this week | il'usbwaA<br>dih<br>ا ِلأ ُسبو َع د ِه | we are on holiday **this week**<br>ihna fi 'agaaza **il'usbwaA dih**<br>ا ِحناَ في أجا َز َة ا ِلأ ُسبو َع د ِه |
| last week | il'usbwaA<br>'illi faat<br>ا ِلأ ُسبو َع<br>إلّي فا َت | I saw her **last week**<br>shuftaha **il'usbwaA 'illi faat**<br>شـُفتـَها َ ا ِلأ ُسبو َع إلّي فا َت |
| early | badri<br>بـَدري | we must get up **early tomorrow**<br>laazim ni'oom **badri bukrah**<br>لاَز ِم نـِقوم بـَدري بـُكر َه |
| evening | biilleel<br>بـِيا ِلّيل | there is a party **this evening**<br>fi hafla **biilleel**<br>في هـَفلـَة بـِيا ِلّيل |

| | | | في حَفلَة بِيا لِلَّيل |
|---|---|---|---|
| later | baAdeen | بـَـعدين | see you **later**<br>ha<u>shoo</u>fak **baAdeen**<br>حَـشوفـَك بـَـعدين |
| again | ka<u>maan</u> ma<u>rrah</u> | كـَـمَا نَ مَـرَ ّه | play that song **again**<br><u>Gan</u>ni il'a<u>Gniya</u> dih **ka<u>maan</u> ma<u>rrah</u>**<br>غَـنّي ا لأغنِـيِـَة دِه **كـَـمَا نَ مـَـرَ ّه** |
| afterwards | baAd ki<u>da</u> | بـَـعد كِـدَ ة | we will eat and **afterwards** we will sit in the garden<br>ha<u>naa</u>kul wa **baAd ki<u>da</u>** hani'Aad fyilgi<u>nee</u>na<br>هـَـنا كُـل و **بـَـعد كِـد َة** هـَـنِـقعـَـد فيا لِجِـنِينـَة |
| ago | min | مِـين | I have lived here for a long time<br>(lit. **since a long time ago**<br>si<u>kint</u> hi<u>na</u> **min za<u>maan</u>**<br>سـِـكِـنت هِـنا **مِـين زَ ـمَا نَ** |

# frequency

This group of adverbs specifies how frequently you do something. Here are some examples:

<

| English | Egyptian | Example |
|---|---|---|
| usually | Aaa<u>da</u>tan | عَاد َتا ً | I **usually** take a nap after lunch<br>baa<u>Kud</u> **Aaa<u>da</u>tan** taA<u>see</u>lla baAd il<u>Gada</u>'<br>بـَـآخـُـد **عـَد َتا ً** تـَعسيلِّـَـة بـَعد ا لِغـَدا ء |
| always | <u>day</u>man | دَيما ً | his office is **always** neat<br>mak<u>ta</u>buh mit<u>sat</u>tif **<u>day</u>man**<br>مـَكتَـيـُه مِتِسـَتّـِـف **د َيما ً** |
| rarely | <u>nad</u>ran | نا َدرا ً | I **rarely** see Ahmed<br>'ana ba<u>shoof</u> ah<u>mad</u> **<u>nad</u>ran**<br>أنا َبا َشوف ا َحمـَد نا َد ِرا ً |
| regularly | bi'inti<u>Zaam</u> | بـِإنتِـظا َم | I go to the gym **regularly**<br>ba<u>rooh</u> il<u>geem</u> **bi'inti<u>Zaam</u>**<br>بـَروح ا لِجيم **بـِإنتـِظا َم** |
| recently | min '<u>u</u>rayib | مِـين قـُـر ِيِـب | somebody asked me about that **recently**<br>hadd s'aal<u>ni</u> Aa<u>nuh</u> dih **min '<u>u</u>rayib**<br>حـَـدّ سأَ لني عـَـنـُه د ِه **مـِـين قـُـر َيـِـب** |
| never | '<u>aba</u>dan | أبـَـدا ً | I will **never** speak to him again<br>**'<u>aba</u>dan** mish hakal<u>li</u>muh thae<u>ni</u><br>أبـَـدا ً مـِش هـَـكـَـلـّـِـمـُـه ثا َني |
| again | thaa<u>ni</u> | ثا َني | I would like to go there **again**<br>Aaa<u>yiz</u> '<u>a</u>rooh hi<u>naak</u> **thaa<u>ni</u>**<br>عا َيـِز أروح هـِنا ك ثا َني |
| often | <u>Gali</u>ban | غـَـلـِـيا ً | she is **often** tired<br>hiya taA<u>baa</u>na **<u>Gali</u>ban**<br>هـِي تـَـعبا نـَـة غـَـلـِـيا ً |
| forever | lil'abad | لِـلأبـَـد | nobody lives **for ever**<br>ma<u>had</u>dish biyiAish **lil'abad**<br>مـَـحـَدّ ِش بـِـيِـعِـيش لـِـلأبـَـد |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| all day | Tool ilyoom | طول اليوم | it rained all day<br>maTTar **Tool ilyoom**<br><br>مـَطـّيـَر **طول ا ِليوم** |
| all (my/his/her) life | Tool ilAumr | طول العُمر | he smoked cigarettes **all his life**<br>kaan biyishrib sagaayar **Tool Aumruh**<br><br>كاَن بـِيـِشر ِب سـَجا يـَر **طول عـُمر**ُه |
| firstly | 'awilan | أوِلاً | |
| finally | 'aKeeran | أخيراً | he **finally** visited london<br>zaar lundun **'aKeeran**<br><br>زا َر لـُنَد ُن **أخيراً** |
| occasionally | min wa't lilthaani | مـين و َقت لـِلثا َني | I go to the park **occasionally**<br>barooh ilgineena **min wa't lilthaani**<br><br>بـَروح ا ِلجـِنينـَة **مـين و َقت لـِلثا َني** |
| hourly | biilsaaAa | بـيا ِلسا عـَة | you must check **hourly**<br>laazim titammim **biilsaaAa**<br><br>لاَز ِم تـِتـَمـّـِم **بـيا ِلسا َعـَة** |
| sometimes | 'ahyaanan | أحياَناً | we **sometimes** see sharks here<br>binishoof samak 'irsh **'ahyaanan** hina<br><br>بـِنـِشوف سـَمـَك قـِرش **أحيا َناً** هـِناَ |
| sometimes | 'aoo'aat | أوقاَت | it **sometimes** rains in Egypt<br>**'aoo'aat** bitmaTTar fi maSr<br><br>أوقاَت بـِتمـَطـّيـَر في مـَصر<br><br>*Note: always goes at beginning of sentence* |

## Degree

The following adverbs can be placed after an adjective or another adverb to indicate the degree:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| slightly | shuwaya | شـُو يـَة |
| reasonably | maA'oola | مـَعقولـَة |
| very | 'awi | قـَوي |
| extremely | KaaliS | خا َلـِص |
| | giddan | جـِدّاً |
| | Aail'aKir | عـَا ِلأخـِر |
| too | 'awi | قـَوي |

You may have noticed that the word **qawy** has two meanings: **very** and **too**. This sometimes causes confusion when Egyptians speak English: they say, for example, "I like you **too much**"" when they mean "I like you **very much**".

## Derived adverbs

Most adjectives in English can be converted to an adverb by adding the letters **-ly**, for example **nice** becomes **nicely**. In Egyptian, the adjective can be converted to an adverb by adding the ending **-an** ـاً

| English | adjective | adverb |
|---|---|---|

| English | Egyptian | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| officially | rasmi | رَسمي | rasmyan | رَسمياً |
| theoretically | naZari | نَـظَـري | naZariyan | نَـظَـرِياً |
| naturally | TabeeAi | طَـبِيعي | TabeeAyan | طَـبِيعياً |
| literally | harfi | حَـرَفي | harfyan | حَـرَفياً |
| generally | Aumoomi | عُـمومي | Aumooman | عُـموماً |
| normally | Aaadi | عاَدي | Aadatan | عـَدَتاً |
| slightly | 'ulayil | قْـلَـيِـل | 'alayalan | قَـلَـيـَلاً |

Similarly, a noun can be converted to an adverbal phrase by adding the word **with**, for example **with care**. In Egyptian, the same can be achieved by adding <u>bi-</u> بِـ at the start of the word.

| English | Egyptian | | Example |
|---|---|---|---|
| with care | bi<u>ha</u>zar | بِـحـَذَ ر | he opened the box **carefully**<br><u>fa</u>tah il<u>Aa</u>lba **bi<u>ha</u>zar**<br>فـَتـَح اِ لعـَلـبَة **بِـحـَذَ ر** |
| with speed | bi<u>sur</u>Aa | بِـسـُّرعـَة | Ahmed drives very **fast**<br>'ahmad biyi<u>soo</u>' **bi<u>sur</u>Aa** 'awi<br>أحمـَد بِـيِـيسوق **بِـسـُّرعـَة** قـَوَي |
| with calm | bii<u>ra</u>aha | بِـا لِرا حـَة | play (pl) **quietly**!<br>'il<u>Aa</u>bu **bii<u>ra</u>aha**<br>إلـَعبو ا بِـا لِرا حـَة |
| with precision | bil<u>Za</u>bT | بِـا لظـَبط | the meeting took **exactly** one hour<br>il'igti<u>maa</u>A 'aKad <u>saa</u>Aa **bil<u>Za</u>bT**<br>اِلإجتِـماَ ع أخـَد ساَ عـَة **بِـا لظـَبط** |
| with moderation | bi'iAati<u>da</u>a | بِـإعـَتِـدا ل | eat **moderately**<br>'akul **bi'iAatidaal**<br>أكـُل **بِـإعـَتِـدا ل** |
| in the evening | bil<u>lee</u>l | بِـا لّيل | there is a party **this evening**<br><u>fi</u> haf<u>la</u> **bil<u>lee</u>l**<br>في حـَفلـَة **بِـا لّيل** |

## Miscellaneous

| English | Egyptian | | Example |
|---|---|---|---|
| together (people) | <u>sa</u>wa | سـَوا َ | we will travel **together**<br>'ihna misaf<u>ree</u>n **<u>sa</u>wa**<br>إحناَ مِـيساَ فِـرين **سـَوا َ** |
| together (people and things) | ma<u>Aa</u> baAD | مـَع َبـَعض | we will travel **together**<br>'ihna misaf<u>ree</u>n **ma<u>Aa</u> baAD**<br>إحناَ مِـيساَ فِـرين **مـَع َبـَعض** |
| alone (people) | liwahda | لـِيو َحدَ ة | I live **alone**<br>'ana saa<u>kin</u> **liwahda**<br>أناَ ساَ كين **لـِيو َحدَ ة** |
| separately | <u>kul wahid</u> liwahduh | كـُـل و َحيد لـِيو َحدَ ه | we will travel **separately**<br>'ihna misaf<u>ree</u>n **kul <u>wa</u>hid liwahduh**<br>إحناَ مِـيساَ فِـرين **كـُـل و َحيد لـِيو َحدَ ه** |

| well | kuwayis | كـُو َيـِس | he sings very **well** <br> huwwa biyiGanni **kuwayis** 'awi <br> هـُو ّ َ بـِيـِغـَنـِّي كـُو َيـِس قـَوي |

# Prepositions

Prepositions define a relationship (in time, space,etc) between a noun and something else. In both English and Egyptian, the preposition goes before the noun that it defines the relationship to. Here are some examples:

| Domain | English | Egyptian | Example |
|--------|---------|----------|---------|
| time | after | baAd بَعد | she came **after** dinner<br>hiya gaat **baAd** ilAasha'<br>هِيـي جـا تَ بـَعد ا لِعـَشـا ء |
| space | behind | wara و َرا َ | the garden is **behind** the house<br>ilgineena **wara** ilbiyt<br>الـجِنينـَة و َرا ً ا لِبـيت |
| quality | like | zayi ز َيِي | I need another pen **like** this<br>mihtaag 'alam thaani **zayi** dah<br>مـِحتا َج قـَلـَم ثا َني ز َيِي د َه |
| reference | according to | hasab حـَسـَب | **according to** the police, the riot started at 2am<br>**hasab** kalaam ilboolees, ilshaGab 'ibtada ilsaaAa ithneen<br>حـَسـَب كـَلا ًم ا لِبوليس، ا لِشـَغـَب إبتـَدى ا لِسا َعـَة ا ثنين |
| ownership | have | Aand عـَند | I **have** a house in Cairo<br>**Aandi** biyt fi il'ahra<br>عـَندي بـيت في ا لِقا َهيـر َة |

The noun can be one of the following:

| Element | Example | Sentence |
|---------|---------|----------|
| proper noun | Ahmed | she is with **Ahmed**<br>hiya maAa **'ahmad**<br>هـِي َمـَع َ أحمـَد |
| simple noun | the house | the cat is inside **the house**<br>il'uTTa guwwa **ilbiyt**<br>القـِطّـَة جـُوّا ً ا لِبـيت |
| compound noun | a plastic bag | I don't want a **plastic bag**<br>aana mish Aaayiz **kees blastik**<br>اَنا َ مـِش عا َيِـز كيس بلـَستـِك |
| noun phrase | the man who... | I arrived after **the man who delivered the carpet**<br>waSalt baAd **ilraagil illi waSal ilsigaada**<br>و َصـَلت بـَعد ا لِرا َجـِل ا لّي و َصـَل ا لِسـِجا َد َة |
| object pronoun | her | I arrived after **her**<br>waSalt baAd**aha**<br>و َصـَلت بـَعد َهَ |
| demonstrative pronoun | this | I need another pen like **this**<br>mihtaag 'alam thaani zayi **dah**<br>مـِحتا َج قـَلـَم ثا َني ز َيِي د َه |

**Be careful!** If it's not a noun, but a complete clause (ie it has a verb), you have to use a conjunction. In English, it's confusing because the preposition and conjunction are often the same word: in Egyptian it is necessary to insert the word **ma** مَا to convert a preposition ot a conjunction. See more about this below.

## Prepositions of time

| English | Egyptian | Example |
|---------|----------|---------|
| after | baAd بـَعد | we will start **after** the feast<br>hanibtidi **baAd** ilAiyd<br><br>هـَنـِيـتـِدي بـَعد ا ِلـعـِيد |
| before | 'abl قـَبل | I must paint the house **before** summer<br>laazim 'adhin ilbiyt **'abl** ilSeef<br><br>لاَزِم أدهـِن ا ِلـبـِيت قـَبل ا ِلصيف |
| during | athna' اَثنا َء | smoking is forbidden **during** dinner<br>iltadKeen mamnooA **'athna'** ilAasha'<br><br>ا ِلتـَدخين مـَمنوع أثنا َء ا ِلعـَشا َء |
| till | lihadd لـِحـَدّ | I will be here till dinner<br>'ana mawgood **lihadd** ilAasha'<br><br>أناَ مـَوجود لـِحـَدّ ا ِلعـَشا َء |
| till | liGaayit لـِغا َيـِية | they are busy **until** 8pm<br>humma mawgoodeen **liGaayit** saaAa tamanya<br><br>هـُمّ َ مـَوجودين لـِغا َيـِية سا َعـَة تـَما َنيـَة |

## Prepositions of space

| English | Egyptian | Example |
|---------|----------|---------|
| from | min مـِين | he is **from** Cairo<br>huwwa **min** ilQahra<br><br>هـُوّ َ مـِين ا ِلقا َهـِيرَة |
| away from | Aan عـَن | the dog ran **away from** me<br>ilkalb garri **min**ni<br><br>ا ِلكـَلب جـَرّي مـِينني |
| at/toward | Aala عـَلى | that man is looking **at** us<br>ilraagil dah baSS **Aalee**na<br><br>ا ِلرا َجـِل د َه بـَصّ عـَلـينا |
| at | fi في | my husband is **at** home<br>goozi **fi** ilbiyt<br><br>جوزيفي ا ِلبـِيت |
| above | foo' فوق | my apartment is **above** the laundry<br>sha"ati **foo'** ilmaGsala<br><br>شـَقـّـتَي فوق ا ِلمـَغسـِلـَة |
| below | taht تـَحت | there are many many fish **under** the water<br>fi samak kiteer **taht** ilmayaah<br><br>في سـَمـَك كـِتير تـَحت ا ِلمـَيا َه |
| opposite | 'uSaad قـُصا َد | the restaurant is **opposite** the railway station<br>ilmaTaAm **'uSaad** mahaTTit il'aTaar<br><br>ا ِلمـَطـَعم قـُصا َد مـَحـَطّـِية ا ِلقـَطا َر |
| opposite | 'ubaal قـُبا َل | |
| facing | fi wishsh في و ِشّ | the house is **facing** the desert<br>ilbiyt **fi wishsh** ilSahara'<br><br>ا ِلبـِيت في و ِشّ ا ِلصـَحـَرا َء |
| at | Aand عـَند | the customs office is **at** the airport<br>maktab ilgamaarik **Aand** ilmaTaar<br><br>مـَكتـَب ا ِلجـَما َر ِك عـَند ا ِلمـَطا َر |

| English | Egyptian | | Example |
|---|---|---|---|
| at | Aand | عَند | turn right **at** the pharmacy<br>Kushsh yimeen **Aand** ilSayidaliya<br>خُشّ يِمين **عَند** اِلصَيِيد كَيـِيَـة |
| behind | wara | وَرا | the cat is **behind** you (f)<br>il'uTTa **waraa**ki<br>اِلقُطّـَيَـة و َرا كي |
| beside | gamb | جـَمب | there was an accident **beside** the mosque<br>kaan fi hadtha **ganb** ilgamAa<br>كاَن في حا َدثـَة جـَنب ا لِجا مَع |
| in | fi | في | the dog is **in** the garden<br>ilkalb **fi** ilgineena<br>اِلكـَلب **في** ا لِجـِنينـَة |
| inside | guwa | جـُوَا | we must stay **inside** the house<br>laazim ni'Aud **guwa** ilbiyt<br>لاَز ِم نـِقعـُد جـُوا َا لِبـِيت |
| outside | bara | بـَرا َ | do you want anything from **outside**?<br>Aaayiz haga min **baraa**?<br>عاَيـِز حـَجـَة مـِن بـَرا َ؟ |
| on | Aala | عـَلى | the bread is **on** the table<br>ilAeesh **Aala** iltarabeeza<br>اِلعيش عـَلى ا لتـَر َبيز َة |
| between | been | بين | Hurghada is **between** the desert and the sea<br>ilGarda'a **been** ilSahara' wa ilbahr<br>اِلغـَرد قَـة بين ا لِصـَحـَرا َء و َا لِبـَحر |
| along | biilTool | بـيا لِطول | there are lamp posts all **along** the street<br>fi Aawameed noor **biilTool** ilshaariA<br>في عـَوا َميد نور بـيا لِطول ا لِشا َر ِع |
| surrounding | hawalee | حـَو َلين | The view **surrounding** the house is very beautiful<br>ilmanZar **hawaleen** ilbiyt gameel 'awi<br>اِلمـَنظـَر حـَو َلين ا لِبـَيت جـَميل قـَوَي |

Note that you don't need a prepositional **to** after words like **raah** را َح - go.

I am going **to** Cairo
aacnaa raayiH iil-Qaahirao

## Miscellaneous Prepositions

| English | Egyptian | | Example |
|---|---|---|---|
| concerning | 'amaa... fa... | أماَ,,, فـَ,,, | |
| like | zayi | ز َيي | do you have something **like** this?<br>Aandak haaga **zayi** dih?<br>عـَند َك حا َجـَة ز َيي د ِه؟ |
| there is | fi | في | **there is** a stain on this shirt<br>**fi** bu'Aa Aala il'ameeS dih<br>**في** بـُقعـَة عـَلى ا لِقـَميص د ِه |
| about | Aan | عـَن | I am reading a book **about** the revolution<br>ba'ra kitaab **Aan** ilthoora<br>بـَقرا َ كِتا َب **عـَن** ا لِثور َة |

| according to | hasab | حَـسَـب | **according to** Ahmed, it will be windy tomorrow<br>**hasab** kalaam 'ahmad, haykoon fi hawa' kiteer bukrah<br>حَـسَـب كَـلَا مَ أحمَـد، حَـيكون في هَـوَا ءَ كِـتير بـُكرَ هَ |
| contrary | Aaks | عَـكس | my opinion is **contrary to** yours<br>r'ayi **Aaks** r'ayak<br>رأيي**عَـكس** رأيَـَك |
| except | 'ila | إلاَ | there is no food **except** this bread<br>mafish akl **'ila** ilAayshsh dah<br>مَـفِـيش ا كل **إلا** ا لِـعَـَيش ّ دَ هَ |
| except | maAada | مَـعَـَداَ | |
| instead of | baddal | بـَدّ كل | give us chicken **instead of** beef<br>'ideena firaaK **baddal** illahma<br>إديناَ فِـرا خ بـَدّ كل ا لِّـبَـحمَـَة |
| despite | biilraGm min | بيا ِلر َغم مـين | he succeeded **despite** his injuries<br>nigih **biilraGm min** ziraaAuh ilmaksoor<br>نـِجِـح بيا ِلر َغم مـين ذ ِرا عـُه ا ِلمَـكسور |
| plus | zaa'id | زاَئـِـد | there are ten guests **plus** two staff<br>fi Aashara Duyoof **zaa'id** 'ithneen muwaZafeen<br>في عَـشَـَرَ ة ضـُيوف **زا َـيد** إثنين مـُوَ َظـَفين |

## Prepositions of ownership

This important group is discussed in more detail in the section on ownership.

| English | Egyptian | | Example |
|---------|----------|---|---------|
| own | Aand | عَـَند | I **own** a car<br>**Aandi** Aarabiya<br>عَـَندي عَـَر َبـِيـَة |
| have with you | maAa | مَـَعَ | I **have** a cigarette lighter<br>**maAayah** walaaAa<br>مَـَعَـيـَه و َلا َعَـَة |
| have got | li | لي | I **have** two legs<br>**li** rigleen<br>لي ر ِجلين |
| for | Aalashaen | عَـَلَـَشا ن | there was a phone call **for** you<br>kaan fi mukalma **Aalashaen**ak<br>كاَن في مـُكـَلمَـَة عَـَلـَـَشا نَ ك |

## Subordinate clauses: maa

A preposition connects a noun to a sentence. If you want to connect a clause (something with a verb) to a sentence, you need to use a conjunction.

In English, many conjunctions are the same as prepositions: In Egyptian, some prepositions can be converted to a conjunction by adding the word **ma** ماَ. Here are some examples:

| Preposition | Conjunction |
|-------------|-------------|
| wash your hands **before** dinner<br>'iGsil ieedeek **'abl** ilAasha'<br>إغسـِل ا ِيديك قـَـَيل ا ِلعَـَشا ء | wash your hands **before** you eat<br>'iGsil ieedeek **'abl ma** taakul<br>إغسـِل ا ِيديك قـَـَيل ماَ تا َكـُـل |

| | |
|---|---|
| she arrived **after** the bus<br>hiya waSalit **baAd** ilmasarahiya<br>هِيَ وَصَلِت **بَعد** اِلمَسَرَ حِيَة | she arrived **after** the bus had gone<br>hiya waSalit **baAd ma** ilmasrahiya 'ibtadit<br>هِيَ وَصَلِت **بَعد ما** اِلمَسَر حِيَة إِبتَدِت |
| he acts **like** the owner<br>biyitSarraf **zayi** ilmaalik<br>بِيِتصَرّ َف **زَيي** اِلما َلِك | he acts **as if** he owns the place<br>biyitSarraf **zayi ma** yikoon ilmakaan bitaaAuh<br>بِيِتصَرّ َف **زَيي ما** يِكون اِلمَكا َن بِتا َعُه |

**yikoon** يِكون is added in the last example because it is something that is unlikely to happen. See <span style="color:blue">kaan</span> for more details.

# Conjunctions

Conjunctions are the useful little words that join clauses together to make more complex sentences.

I want to make bread **but** I don't have enough flour
Aaayiz aacAamil Aiysh **lakin** maAandysh diqyq kifaayao

| Part | English | Egyptian |
|---|---|---|
| Main clause | I want to make bread | Aaayiz 'aAamil Aiysh<br>عاَيـِز أعـَمـِل عـِيش |
| Conjunction | but | lakin<br>لـَكـِن |
| Subordinate clause | I don't have enough flour | maAandeesh di'ee' kifaaya<br>مـَعـَنديش دِ قيق كـِفا َيـَة |

If you just want to attach a noun, you should use a preposition, but if you want to attach a clause (ie, there is a verb in bit that you want to attach), then a conjunction is required. In English, the same word is often used for both preposition and conjunction, but there are differences in Egyptian: see prepositions and conjunctions for more details.

In both English and Egyptian, you can put the subordinate clause either before or after the main clause. This doesn't change the meaning at all, just the emphasis.

You can go out **when** you have finished your homework
mumkin tuKrug **lammaa** hatiKlis iil-waegib

**When** you have finished your homework, you can go out.
**lammaa** hatiKlis iil-waegib, mumkin tuKrug

If there is a subject pronoun in the second clause, it becomes a pronoun suffix attached to the conjunction. For example:

I feared that **she** was lost
aanaa Kuft iinn**ahaa** tikwn taahit

The following table lists most of the common conjunctions, and gives examples how they can be used.

| English | Egyptian | | Example |
|---|---|---|---|
| that | 'inn | إنّ | I feared **that** she was lost<br>aana Kuft '**inn**aha tikoon taahit<br>اَنا َ خـُفت إنّ َها َ تـِكون تا َهـِت |
| as long as | Tool ma | طول ما َ | **as long as** you water the garden, the plants will grow<br>**Tool ma** bitis'i ilgineena, ilzaraA hayikbar<br>**طول ما**َ بـِتـِسقي ا ِلجـِنينـَة، ا ِلز َر َع حـَيـِكبـَر |
| because | Aalashaa | عـَلـَشا َن<br>pronounced Aashaen | I don't have a car **because** there is not enough money<br>maAndeesh Aarabiya **Aalashaan** mafiysh filoos kifaaya<br>مـَعنديش عـَر َبـِيـَة **عـَلـَشا** َن مـَفـِيش فـِلوس كـِفا َيـَة |
| in order to | Aalashaa | عـَلـَشا َن<br>+imperfect | I need money **in order to** buy food<br>mihtaag filoos **Aalashaan** 'ashtiri 'akl<br>مـِحتا َج فـِلوس **عـَلـَشا** َن أشتـِري أكل |
| after | baAd ma | بـَعد ما َ | we will leave **after** the movie has finished<br>hanimshi **bAad ma** ilfeelm yiKlaS |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | حـنَـِمشي **بعْـَد ماۤ** اِلفيلم يِـخلـَِص |
| and | wi <u></u> | وِۤ | I went to the bank **and** it was closed<br>raht il<u>b</u>ank **wi** <u>k</u>aan ma'<u>f</u>ool<br>رَحت اِلبـَنَك وِۤ كاۤن مـَقفول |
| as if | Aala 'inn | عـَلى إنّ | |
| as if | ka'inn | كاۤإنّ | he spends money **as if** he is rich<br>biy<u>u</u>Srif fi<u>l</u>oos **ka'in**nuh Gani<br>بـِيـُصرِۤف فيلوس **كاۤ إن**نـُه غـَني |
| as if | zayi ma | زَيِي ماۤ | he spends money **as if** he is rich<br>biy<u>u</u>Srif fi<u>l</u>oos **zayi ma** yi<u>k</u>oon Gani<br>بـِيـُصرِۤف فيلوس **زَيِي ماۤ** يـِكون غـَني |
| before | 'abl ma | قـَبَل ماۤ | |
| but | bass <u></u> | بـَسّ | I would like to go **but** I don't have time<br><u>n</u>ifsi arooh **bass** maAan<u>deesh</u> wa't<br>نـِفسي اَروح **بـَسّ** مـَعـَنديش وَقت |
| but | lakin <u></u> | لـَكِـين | ditto |
| if | 'in <u></u> | إنّ | **If** you go, you will get into a fight<br>**'inn** rooht hi<u>n</u>aak, haa<u>tit</u> Kaa<u>ni</u>'<br>**إنّ** روحت هـِناۤك، حاۤتـِِت خاۤنـِق |
| if | 'iza <u></u> | إذاۤ | **if** you have some money, lend me fifty pounds<br>**'iza** kaan maAaak fi<u>l</u>oos, sa<u>lif</u>ni Kam<u>seen</u> ginya<br>**إذاۤ** كاۤن مـَعاۤك فـِلوس، سـَلـِفني خـَمسين جـِنيـَة |
| instead of | badal ma | بـَدَل ماۤ | **instead of** going, call them<br>**badal ma** ma<u>t</u>rooh, kali<u>m</u>hum<br>**بـَدَل ماۤ** مـَتَروح، كـَلـِمهـُم |
| like | zai ma | زَيِي ماۤ | **as you** did for him, he will do for you<br>**zayi ma** Aa<u>m</u>alt feeh hayitAamil feek<br>**زَيِي ماۤ** عـَمـَلت فيه هـَيـِتعـَمـِل فيك |
| neither.. nor.. | laa... walaah.. | لاۤ،،، و لاۤ ۤه،، | **neither** this is working **nor** is this working<br>**la** dah <u>n</u>aafaA wa<u>l</u>aah dah biy<u>inf</u>aA<br>لاۤ دَهـۤنا فـَع و لاۤ ۤه د ۤه بـِيـِنفـَع |
| or | 'aw | أو | we can eat fish **or** chicken<br>>mumkin naa<u>k</u>ul sa<u>m</u>ak **'aw** fi<u>r</u>aaK<br>مـُـمكِـين نا كُـل سـَمـَك أو فِـرا ۤخ |
| or (in question) | wala | وَلاۤ | would you like fish **or** chicken?<br>Aaawiz taa<u>k</u>ul sa<u>m</u>ak **wala** fi<u>r</u>aaK?<br>عاۤوِز تاۤكُـل سـَمـَك و ۤلا فِـرا ۤخ؟ |
| rather than | 'ahsan | أحسـَن | I would prefer to eat fish **rather than** chicken<br>'akul il<u>s</u>amak **ah<u>san</u> min** ilfi<u>r</u>aaK<br>أكُـل اِلسـَمـَك **أحسـَن مـِن** اِلفِـرا ۤخ |
| otherwise | wa 'illa | وَ إلاّ | shut up **otherwise** we go home!<br>'i<u>K</u>rassi **wa 'illa** haara<u>w</u>ahik<br>إخرَسّي وَ ۤإلاّ ۤها ۤرَ وَحِـك |
| unless | 'ila 'iza | إلاۤ إذاۤ | don't give him any money **unless** I allow you to<br>ma<u>t</u>ideehoosh fi<u>l</u>oos **'ila 'iza** 'ana samah<u>tee</u>lak<br>مـَتِديهوش فـِلوس إلاۤ **إذاۤ** أناۤ سـَمـَحتيلـَك |

Note that **and <u>wa</u>** وَ is used a lot in narrative to replace conjunctions like **next** and **then**. It is also often used in place of **but**.

# that-clauses

Verbs that deal with communication, opinion or emotions can be followed by a that-clause, which specifies what you said or thought or felt. Note that, in English, the **that** is sometimes omitted, but it's still a that-clause.

I think **that** you are wrong
I think you are wrong

In Egyptian, this is expressed using **'inn** إنّ. Note that the subject pronoun of the that-clause can be attached to **'inn** إنّ as a suffix.

I said **that** I was busy
'ana 'ultiluh **'inni** kunt mashGool
أناَ قـُلتـِلـُّه إنّـي كـُنت مـَشغول

I think **that** you are wrong
'aftikir **'inn**ak Galtan
أفتـِكـِير إنّ َك غـَلتاً

I know **that** he is lying
'ana Aaarif **'inn**uh biyikdib
أناَ عاَر ِف إنّ ُه بـيـِكد ِب

I feared **that** she was lost
aana Kuft **'inn**aha tikoon taahit
اَناَ خـُفت إنّ َها َ تـِكون تاَ َهـِت

I think **that** we are ready
'aftikir **'inn** 'ihna gahzeen
أفتـِكـِير إنّ إحناَ َ جاَ َهـِزين

# Conditional clauses (if.. then...)

There are two words meaning **if**: they are **'iza** إذاَ and **law** لـَو. **'iza** إذاَ can be used under all circumstances: **law** لـَو cannot be used with the imperfect form of a verb or a preposition.

In English, the word **then** is occasionally used to complement **if**. In Egyptian, there is no equivalent word.

## If I were rich...

If an event or situation is improbable or impossible, in English we use modals like 'would' and 'were', or backshift the tense of the verb (for example, present becomes past). In Egyptian, the word **kaan** كاَن is used after **law** لـَو. Compare these two sentences:

<div align="center">

if **I have** time, **I will read** the book
iicdhaa **Aandy** waqt, **haaqraac** iil-kitaab

if **I had** time, **I would read** the book
law **kaan Aandy** waqt, **kunt qaryt** iil-kitaab

if **I had** money, **I would buy** a car
law **maayaa** filws, **kunt aacshtiryt** Aarabiyao

</div>

| When | conditional clause |
|---|---|
| past | **'iza kaan** إذاَ كاَن + perfect |
| present | **'iza kaan** إذاَ كاَن + imperfect |
| future | **'iza kaan** إذاَ كاَن + imperfect |

# Determiners

A determiner introduces a noun. There are four types of determiner:

| Type | English Examples |
|---|---|
| article | the, and |
| demonstrative | this, that |
| quantifier | some, any |
| possessive | my, his |

## Articles

In English, there are two articles. The definite article **the** indicates that we are referring to something we have already mentioned, or the listener will understand which one we are talking about. The indefinite article **a/an** indicates that we are not talking about any particular instance of something. In Egyptian, there is a definite article **il- ـل ا** but no indefinite article.

To talk about a particular man- the listener is expected to know which man we are referring to- we say 'the man' in English. In arabic, we attach **il- ـل ا** to the front of the noun.

<div align="center">

**the** man is reading his book
**il**raagil biyi'r'a ki<u>taa</u>buh
اِلـرا َجـِل بـِيـِقرأ كـِتا َبـُّه

</div>

Note that adding **il- ـل ا** to a word affects the pronunciation if it begins with a sun letter.

For compound nouns, where we use a noun to describe another noun, **the** is used before the compound noun. In Egyptian, it is used before each word in the compound noun:

<div align="center">

**the** plastic bag
**il**kees **il**blastik
اِلـلكيس ا ـلـبلا َستـِك

</div>

Note that, in Egyptian, **il- ـل ا** is used before nouns expressing abstract concepts. In English, it is not unless you are referring to a particular kind of whatever the noun relates to.

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| love is all you need | **il**hubb hu<u>ww</u>a kull ill<u>i</u> 'in<u>ta</u> mah<u>tal</u>Ka | اِلـحـُبّ هـُوّ َكـُلّ ا ِلـّي إنت َمـَحتـَلخـَة |
| the love of God | 'allah il<u>hubb</u> | ألّيـَه ا ِلحـُبّ |
| give peace a chance | '<u>idd</u>i il<u>saam</u> furSa | إدّي ا ِلسـَلا َم فـُرصـَة |
| movement is blessed | il<u>ha</u>raka baraka | اِلـحـَر َكـَة بـَر َكـَة |

## Demonstratives

Demonstratives are words that you generally use when you are pointing at something. In English, there are four demonstratives- **this** and **that** (singular) and **these** and **those** (plural). You generally use **this/these** to refer to something nearer to you, and **that/those** for something further away. They can be used either as pronouns (on their own) or as determiners (introducing a noun). In Arabic, there is just one demonstrative, but there are three forms- masculine, feminine and plural. It is used either as a pronoun (on its own) or as a demonstrative adjective (after a noun). Let's see how that works:

| Usage | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| pronoun | I like this (m) | 'ana baahibb dah | أنا َ با َحِـِبّ د َه |
| pronoun | I like this (f) | 'ana baahibb dih | أنا َ با َحِـِبّ دِه |
| pronoun | I like these (pl) | 'ana baahibb dul | أنا َ با َحِـِبّ د ُل |
| determiner/adjective | I like this book(m) | 'ana bahibb ilkitab dah | أنا َ بـَحِـِبّ ا ِلكِـتـَب د َه |
| determiner/adjective | I like this garden(m) | 'ana bahibb ilgineena dih | أنا َ بـَحِـِبّ ا ِلجِـنينـَة دِه |
| determiner/adjective | I like these book(m) | 'ana bahibb ilkutub dul | أنا َ بـَحِـِبّ ا ِلكِـتـُب د ُل |

Note that, when **this** is used as a demonstrative determiner, **dah** د َه is used as a demonstrative adjective: it goes after the noun, and **il-** ا ِلـ is used as a determiner before then noun.

## Quantifiers

Quantifiers specify how much or how many of something we are talking about. Numbers give exact information, whereas quantifying determiners give an approximate idea. English examples are some, enough, any, many, few. Most English quantifiers do not have an equivalent in Egyptian: instead, quantifying adjectives (which follow the noun) are used. **any** does not have an equivalent: it is simply omitted.

| Usage | English | Egyptian |
|---|---|---|
| determiner | I want **some** milk | Aaayiz **shuwayit** laban<br>عا َيـِز شـُو َيـِة لـَبـَن |
| adjective | I don't have **enough** money | maAandeesh filoos **kifaaya**<br>مـَعـَنديش فـِلوس كـِفا َيـَة |
| - | he has **any** money | maAanduhsh filoos<br>مـَعـَند ُهش فـِلوس |
| adjective | you have **many** friends<br>formal | Aandak 'aShaab **kiteer**<br>عـَند َك أصحا َب كـِتير |
| adjective | you have **a lot** of friends<br>informal | Aandak 'aShaab **yaama**<br>عـَند َك أصحا َب يا َما َ |
| determiner | I am tired of **too much** talk | 'ana zahQaaen min **kutr** ilkalaem<br>أنا َ ز َهقا َن مـِن كـُتر ا ِلكـَلا َم |

## Possessive suffixes

Possessives indicate who owns something- in English, they are words like my, his and their. In both English and Egyptian, they are similar to the corresponding possessive pronouns (mine, his, theirs), but they introduce a noun rather than being used on their own. In Egyptian, they are suffixes attached to the noun that they relate to, or to the ownership word **bitaA** بـِتـَع the latter is used for most imported words.

what (is) **your** name?

'ism**ak** 'ieeh?

إسم َك إيه؟

The posessive suffixes themselves are pretty easy to learn, but when they are attached to nouns, the vowels do a little dance to make sure that you don't get three consonants in a row. Here are examples for nouns that end with one or two consonants:

| | Nouns ending in two consonants | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English | after -C | | | after -CC | | |
| | suffix | Saahib | صاحِب | suffix | kalb | كَلْب |
| my | -i | Sahbi | صاحِبي | -i | kalbi | كَلْبِي |
| our | -na | Saahibna | صاحِبِنَا | -ina | kalbina | كَلْبِنَا |
| your(m) | -ak | Sahbak | صاحِبَك | -ak | kalbak | كَلْبَك |
| your(f) | -ik | Sahbik | صاحِبِك | -ik | kalbik | كَلْبِك |
| your(pl) | -kum | Saahibkum | صاحِبكُم | -ukum | kalbukum | كَلْبُكُم |
| his/its(m) | -uh | Sahbuh | صاحِبُه | -uh | kalbuh | كَلْبُه |
| her/its(f) | -ha | Saahibha | صاحِبهَا | -aha | kalbaha | كَلْبَهَا |
| their | -hum | Saahibhum | صاحِبهُم | -uhum | kalbuhum | كَلْبُهُم |

For nouns ending in **-a** ـَة, the **-a** ـَة is replaced by **-t** ت or **-it** ـِت and then the ending is added.

| | Nouns ending in **-a** ـَة | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English | after -C | | | after -CC | | |
| | suffix | koora | كورَة | suffix | shanTa | شَنْطَة |
| my | -ti | koorti | كورتي | -iti | shanTiti | شَنْطِتي |
| our | -itna | kooritna | كورِتنَا | -itna | shanTitna | شَنْطِتنَا |
| your(m) | -tak | koortak | كورتَك | -itak | shanTitak | شَنْطِتَك |
| your(f) | -tik | koortik | كورتِك | -itik | shanTitik | شَنْطِتِك |
| your(pl) | -itkum | kooritkum | كورِتكُم | -itkum | shanTitkum | شَنْطِتكُم |
| his/its(m) | -tuh | koortuh | كورتُه | -ituh | shanTituh | شَنْطِتُه |
| her/its(f) | -itha | kooritha | كورِتهَا | -itha | shanTitha | شَنْطِتهَا |
| their | -ithum | koorithum | كورِتهُم | -ithum | shanTithum | شَنْطِتهُم |

Nouns that end in alif **-a** ـا are treated almost like feminine nouns, ie the alif is replaced by **-it** ـِت and then the ending is added.

Nouns ending in **-i** ي or **-w** و are listed below.

Note that for most words ending in **-w** و, for example **baltw** بَلْتو, one would normally use **bitaA** بِـتَـع rather than a posessive suffix.

| | Nouns ending in a vowel | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English | | -a | ـا | -i | ي | -w | و |
| | suffix | veela | فيلا | koorsi | كورسي | Aadw | عَدو |
| my | -ya | veeliti | فيلاِتي | koorsya | كورسيَا | Aadwi | عَدوي |

| English | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| our | -na | ‏نا‏ | veelitna | ‏ڤـيلا ِتنا‏ | koorseena | ‏كورسينا‏ | Aadoona | ‏عـَدونا‏ |
| your(m) | -k | ‏ك‏ | veelitak | ‏ڤـيلا ـتـَك‏ | koorseek | ‏كورسيك‏ | Aadook | ‏عـَدوك‏ |
| your(f) | -ki | ‏ك ِ‏ | veelitik | ‏ڤـيلا ـتـِك‏ | koorseeki | ‏كورسيكي‏ | Aadwik | ‏عـَدو ِك‏ |
| your(pl) | -kum | ‏كـُم‏ | veelitkum | ‏ڤـيلا ِتكـُم‏ | koorseekum | ‏كورسيكـُم‏ | Aadookum | ‏عـَدوكـُم‏ |
| his/its(m) | -h | ‏ـه‏ | veelituh | ‏ڤـيلا ـتـُه‏ | koorseeh | ‏كورسيه‏ | Aadooh | ‏عـَدوه‏ |
| her/its(f) | -ha | ‏ـها‏ | veelitha | ‏ڤـيلا ِتها‏ | koorseeha | ‏كورسيها‏ | Aadooha | ‏عـَدوها‏ |
| their | -hum | ‏ـهـُم‏ | veelithum | ‏ڤـيلا ِتهـُم‏ | koorseehum | ‏كورسيهـُم‏ | Aadoohum | ‏عـَدوهـُم‏ |

Father and brother **'abb** ‏أبّ‏ and brother **'aKK** ‏أخّ‏ become **'abw-** ‏أبو-‏ and brother **'aKw-** ‏أخو-‏ when a possessive is added.

| English | father | | brother | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **'abb** | ‏أبّ‏ | **'aKK** | ‏أخّ‏ |
| my | 'abwya | ‏أبوياَ‏ | 'aKwya | ‏أخوياَ‏ |
| our | 'aboona | ‏أبوناَ‏ | 'aKoona | ‏أخوناَ‏ |
| your(m) | 'abook | ‏أبوك‏ | 'aKook | ‏أخوك‏ |
| your(f) | 'abooki | ‏أبوكي‏ | 'aKooki | ‏أخوكي‏ |
| your(pl) | 'abookum | ‏أبوكـُم‏ | 'aKookum | ‏أخوكـُم‏ |
| his/its(m) | 'abooh | ‏أبوه‏ | 'aKooh | ‏أخوه‏ |
| her/its(f) | 'abooha | ‏أبوهاَ‏ | 'aKooha | ‏أخوهاَ‏ |
| their | 'aboohum | ‏أبوهـُم‏ | 'aKoohum | ‏أخوهـُم‏ |

# Courtesies

This section summarises the expressions that are used daily to greet and say goodbye to people, ask for things and thank people on a day to day basis.

## Religion

Religion is very important in Egypt. There are several phrases that you will hear regularly in any conversation.

|  | Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | ilhamdu lillah | الـحـَمد ُ لـِلـّـَـه | thanks to Allah |
|  | 'allah yisalaamak | ألـّـَـه يـِسـَلا َمـَك | may god protect you *m* |
|  | 'allah yisalaamik | ألـّـَـه يـِسـَلا َمـِك | may god protect you *f* |
|  | 'inn sha' 'allah | إنّ شا َء ألـّـَـه | god willing |
|  | ya rab | يا َر َب | Oh god! |
|  | rabbina | ر َبـّـِـينا َ | our god! |
| greeting | ilsalaam Aaleekum | الـسـَلا َم عـَليكـُم | peace be with you *m/f* |
| response | Aaleekum ilsalaam | عـَليكـُم ا لِسـَلا َم | |

## Addressing somebody

**ya** يا َ is often used before somebody's name or title as a greeting

| Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|
| ya 'ahmad | يا َ أحمـَد | hey, Ahmad! |
| ya rayis | يا َر َيـِس | hey, boss! |
| ya 'usTah | يا َ أ ُسطـَه | driver! |
| ya 'ustaaz | يا َ أ ُستا َذ | hey mister(teacher)! to a respectable person |
| ya 'ustaaza | يا َ أ ُستا َذ َة | hey madam! |
| baasha | با َشا َ | pasha *m/f* |

In addition to the standard pronouns for **you**, there are some more formal versions:

|  | Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| informal | 'inta | إنتَ | you *m* |
| | 'inti | إنتِ | you *f* |
| | 'intu | إنتوا | you *pl* |
| formal | haDritak | حـَضر تـِك | sir |
| | haDritik | حـَضر تـِك | madam |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| siyadtak | سِـيـَدتـَك | sir |
| siyadtik | سِـيـَدتِـك | madam |
| 'afandim | أفـَند ِم | Sir/Madam |

## Greetings

To welcome somebody, you can use one of these phrases...

| | Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| greeting | 'ahlan wa sahlan | أهلا ً و َ سـَهلا ً | welcome and ease |
| response | 'ahlan wa sahlan | أهلا ً و َ سـَهلا ً | welcome and ease |
| response | 'ahlan beek | أهلا ً بيك | welcome to you *m* |
| response | 'ahlan beeki | أهلا ً بيكي | welcome to you *f* |
| greeting | hamd illah Aala salamtak | حـَمد ِلّـَّه عـَلى سـَلا َمتـَك | thank god for protecting you *m* |
| greeting | hamd illah Aala salamtik | حـَمد ِلّـَّه عـَلى سـَلا َمتِـك | thank god for protecting you *f* |

Whenever you meet somebody that you already know, you should shake hands (very gently) and use one of the following greetings.

Before sunset, the following informal greetings are used:

| | Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| greeting | Sabaah ilKeer | صـَبا َح ا ِلخير | a day of wellbeing |
| response | Sabaah ilnoor | صـَبا َح ا ِلنور | a day of light |
| response | Sabaah il'ishTa | صـَبا َح ا ِلقِـشطـَة | a day of cream |
| response | Sabaah ilful | صـَبا َح ا ِلفـُل | a day of jasmine |

After sunset, the following informal greetings may be used: I have heard them very rarely, though.

| | Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| greeting | misa' ilKeer | مـِسا َء ا ِلخير | an evening of wellbeing |
| response | misa' ilKeer | مـِسا َء ا ِلخير | an evening of wellbeing |
| response | misa' ilful | مـِسا َء ا ِلفـُل | an evening of jasmine |

Next, you should ask how they are:

| | Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| question | Aaamil 'ieeh? | عا َمـِل إيه؟ | what are you *m* doing? |
| question | Aamla 'ieeh? | عا َمـِلـَة إيه؟ | what are you *f* doing? |
| question | 'izayak? | إز َيـَك؟ | how are you *m* |
| question | 'izayik? | إز َيِـك؟ | how are you *f* |
| question | il'aKbaar 'ieeh? | ا ِلأخبا َر إيه؟ | what's new? |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| response | <u>kul</u>uh ta<u>maam</u>, il<u>ham</u>du lil<u>lah</u> | كـُلـُّـه تـَما َم، ا ِلحـَمد ُ لـِلّـَـه | all ok, thank god |
| response | <u>mi</u>ya mi<u>ya</u>, il<u>ham</u>du lillah | مـِيـَة مـِيـَة، ا ِلحـَمد ُ لـِلّـَـه | 100% thank god |
| response | ku<u>way</u>is, il<u>ham</u>du lillah | كـُوَ يـِس، ا ِلحـَمد ُ لـِلّـَـه | I *m* am good, thank god |
| response | ku<u>way</u>isa, il<u>ham</u>du lillah | كـُوَ يـِسَة، ا ِلحـَمد ُ لـِلّـَـه | I *f* good, thank god |
| response | <u>nuS</u> nuS | نـُص نـُص | half and half |
| response | <u>mish</u> ba<u>TTaal</u> | مـِش بـَطّا َل | not bad |
| question | wa 'in<u>ta</u>? | وَ ً إنت ـَ ؟ | and you *m*? |
| question | wa 'in<u>ti</u>? | وَ ً إنت ـِ ؟ | and you *f*? |

If you know them well, you should ask how their wives, children, etc...

# Introductions

| Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|
| '<u>is</u>mak '<u>ieeh</u>? | إسمـَك إيه؟ | what is your *m* name? |
| '<u>is</u>mik '<u>ieeh</u>? | إسمـِك إيه؟ | what is your *f* name? |
| '<u>is</u>mi ... | إسمي،،، | my name is ... |
| tishar<u>raf</u>na | تـِشـَرّ ـَفنا َ | pleased to meet you |

# Making you comfortable

| Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|
| 'isti<u>ra</u>yah | إستـِر ـَيـَح | make yourself *m* comfortable |
| 'istira<u>ya</u>hi | إستـِر ـَـَحي | make yourself *f* comfortable |
| <u>tish</u>rab '<u>ieeh</u>? | تـِشر ـَب إيه؟ | what will you *m* drink? |
| tish<u>ra</u>bi '<u>ieeh</u>? | تـِشر ـَبي إيه؟ | what will you *f* drink? |

# Meal time

Egyptians normally have two big meals a day, plus a snack before bedtime.

| English | Time | Types of food | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| breakfast | 11-12am | bread with salads, dips, luncheon meats, omelette with bastirma, tamiyya | <u>fiTaar</u> | فـِطا َر |
| breakfast (Ramadan) | sunset | cooked meat, rice and vegetables, juice, sweet things | '<u>ifTaar</u> | إفطا َر |
| lunch | 5-8pm | cooked meat or fish, rice and vegetables | <u>Gada</u> | غـَدا ً |
| dinner | before sleeping | yogurt, fruit | <u>Aasha</u> | عـَشا ً |

Here are some expressions that are often used around meal times

|  | Egyptian | | When to say it |
|---|---|---|---|
| remark | biilhanna wa ilshiffa | بـِيا لِهـَنّا َ و َ ا لِشـِفا | before or after eating |
| remark | sufrah dayman | سـُفر َه دا َيماً | say to host<br>before leaving table<br>like "thanks for the meal" |
| response | biilhanna wa ilshiffa | بـِيا لِهـَنّا َ و َ ا لِشـِفا | |

## Please

|  | Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| to m | Aan 'iznak | عـَن إذنـَك | excuse me<br>to get past someone |
| to f | Aan 'iznik | عـَن إذنـِك | |
| to m | law samaht | لـَو سـَمـَحت | please |
| to f | law samahti | لـَو سـَمـَحتى | |
| to m | min faDlak | مـِن فـَضلـَك | please |
| to f | min faDlik | مـِن فـَضلـِك | |
| request | mumkin... | مـُمكـِن,,, | Please could you/I..... |
| response | mumkin | مـُمكـِن | Yes (it's possible) |

## Thank you

|  | Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| remark | shukran | شـُكراً | |
| remark | 'alf shukr | ألف شـُكر | |
| remark | mutshakir aaw'i | مـُتشـَكـِر ا َوي | |
| reply | Aafwan | عـَفواً | don't mention it<br>you are welcome |
| reply | ilAafw | اِلعـَفو | you are welcome |

## Goodbyes

|  | Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| remark | maAa ilsalaama | مـَع َ ا لِسـَلا َمـَة | with safety |
| reply | maAa ilsalaama | مـَع َ ا لِسـَلا َمـَة | with safety |
| | hashoofak 'imtaa? | هـَشوفـَك إمتا َ؟ | When will I see you f? |
| | hashoofik 'imtaa? | هـَشوفـِك إمتا َ؟ | When will I see you f? |
| | hashoofak baAdeen | هـَشوفـَك بـَعدين | See you m later |
| | hashoofik baAdeen | هـَشوفـِك بـَعدين | See you f later |

## Achievement

| | Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| | haZZ saAeed | حَظّ سَعيد | good luck! |
| remark | mabrook | مَبروك | congratulations |
| response | 'allah yibaarak feek | ألّـَه يِـِبا رَك فيك | god bless you *m* |
| response | 'allah yibaarik feeki | ألّـَه يِـِبا رِك فيكي | god bless you *f* |

## Occasions

| | Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| | kul sana wa 'inta Tayib | كـُل سـَنـَة و َ إنت َ طَـيِـِب | every year and you are happy birthdays, new year, feasts |
| remark | ramaDaan kareem | رَمـَضا َن كـَريم | during ramadan |
| response | 'allah 'akram | ألّـَـَه أكر َم | during ramadan |

## Opinions

| | Egyptian | | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| question | 'ieeh r'ayak? | إيه رأيـَك؟ | what do you *m* think? |
| question | 'ieeh r'ayik? | إيه رأيِـِك؟ | what do you *f* think? |
| question | tamaam? | تـَما َم؟ | OK? |
| question | tamaam kidah? | تـَما َم كـِد َه؟ | Ok like this? |
| response | 'aeewa | أيواَ | yes |
| response | maashi | ما َشي | It goes ok |
| response | tamaam | تـَما َم | good |
| response | Tayib | طَـيِـِب | fine |
| response | haaDir | حا َضـِر | right away |
| response | mayinfaAsh | مـَيـِنفـَعش | it's no use |
| response | mish mumkin | مـِش مـُمكِن | not possible |
| response | la' | لا َء | no |
| response | la' abadan | لا َء أبـَداَ | never! |
| response | 'aha | أحاَ | <span style="color:red">offensive</span> way of disagreeing |
| response | Aafwaan? | عـَفواَ؟ | Pardon? if you didn't hear |
| response | 'ana mish 'akeed | أناَ مـِش أكيد | I *m/f* am not sure |
| response | 'ana mish Aaarif | أناَ مـِش عا َر ِف | I *m* don't know |
| response | 'ana mish Aarfa | أناَ مـِش عا َر ِفـَة | I *f* don't know |

| response | 'ana mish faahim | أناَ مـِش فاَ هـِم | I *m* don't understand |
|---|---|---|---|
| response | 'ana mish fahma | أناَ مـِش فا هـِمـَة | I *f* don't understand |

## Hassle

| 'imshi | إمشي | go away! |
|---|---|---|
| KalaaS kidah | خـَلا َص كـِد َه | stop this |
| haraam Aaleek | حـَرا َم عـَليك | shame on you *m*! |
| haraam Aaleeki | حـَرا َم عـَليكي | shame on you *f*! |
| Kaleek muhtaram | خـَليك مـُحتـَر َم | be respectful! |
| 'ihtirim nafsak | إحتـِر ِم نـَفسـَك | if a man gets over-friendly to a woman |

## Insults

| remark | humaar | حـُما َر | donkey<br><span style="color:red">offensive</span> | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| remark | 'ibn marah | إبن مـَر َه | your father is a woman<br><span style="color:red">very offensive</span> | |
| remark | 'ibn sharmooTa | إبن شـَرموطـَة | son of a whore/bitch<br><span style="color:red">very offensive</span> | |
| response | 'ifandim??? | إفـَند ِم؟؟؟ | pardon???? | |

# Orders, suggestions and requests

There are several ways of telling somebody to do things- orders, strong recommendations, suggestions and polite requests....

- an order - do it!
- must - you must do it
- need to, have to - you need to do it
- should - you should do this
- could - you could do this
- would you like to... - you could do this
- are you going to to... - you could do this
- why don't you... - you could do this
- can, could, would - would you please do this?

## Order

When you want to order somebody to do something, you use an imperative. This is only appropriate if you have some kind of control over somebody- for example, in the army or to a reluctant employee.

In English, we simply say the verb without a subject, for example **Bring me the money!**. In Egyptian, there are is a special form or the verb for the imperative- or rather three forms- masculine, feminine and plural. Here are some examples.

| English | Imperfect | Imperative | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Masculine | Feminine | | Plural |
| | | | -i ي | -u وا | |
| look! | yibuSS يـِـبـُـصّ | buSS بـُـصّ | buSSi بـُـصّي | buSSu بـُـصّوا | |
| go! | yirooh يـِروح | ruwh رُوح | ruwhi رُوحي | ruwhu رُوحوا | |
| eat! | yaakul ياَكـُـل | kul كـُـل | kuli كـُـلي | kulu كـُـلوا | |
| shut up! | yuskut يـُـسكـُـت | 'iskut إسكـُـت | 'iskuti إسكـُـتي | 'iskutu إسكـُـتوا | |
| calm down! | yihda يـِـهدى | 'ihda إهدى | 'ihdi إهدي | 'ihdu إهدوا | |
| walk! (go away) | yimshi يـِـمشي | 'imshi إمشي | 'imshi إمشي | 'imshu إمشوا | |

There are a couple of verbs have irregular imperatives.

| English | Imperfect | Imperative | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Masculine | Feminine | | Plural |
| | | | -i | ي | -u وا |
| bring! | yiddi يـِـدّي | haet هاَت | haeti هاَتي | hatu هاَتوا | |
| come! | yiygi يـِـيجى | taAaala تـَـعا َل | taAaali تـَـعا َلي | taAalu تـَـعا َلوا | |

You cannot negate an imperative: instead, you use **mish** مِش wrapped around the imperfect. For example:

| English | Imperfect | Negative Imperative | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Masculine | Feminine | Plural |

| | | | -i ـي | ـي | -u ـوا |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| don't look! | yibuSS يـيـُـصّ | matbuSSish مـَـتبـُـصِّـش | matbuSSi مـَـتبـُـصّيش | matbuSSe مـَـتبـُـصّوش | matbuSSu مـَـتبـُـصّوش |
| don't go! | yirooh يـِـروح | matruwhsh مـِـتَر ْوحش | matruwhe مـِـتَر ْوحيش | matroohoo مـِـتروحوش | matroohoo مـِـتروحوش |

## obligation

With an imperative, you are imposing your own authority: you can be slightly more polite by suggesting some that there is some external obligation or reason that it should be done. In English, you can use modals like must, need to, have to.

In Egyptian, modals are followed by the simple imperfect. Most proper modals are invariable- there is no I/you/he form. Here are some examples:

| Modal | | Example | | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| laazim | لاَز ِم | **laazim** yiktib | لاَز ِم يـِـكتـِـب | he **must** write |
| mihtaag | مـِـحتا َج | **mihtaag** yiktib | مـِـحتا َج يـِـكتـِـب | he **needs** to write |
| ilmafrooD | ا ِلمـَـفروض | **ilmafrooD** yiktib | ا ِلمـَـفروض يـِـكتـِـب | he **should** write |
| Daroori | ضـَـروري | **Daroori** yiktib | ضـَـروري يـِـكتـِـب | **it is essential that he should** write |

## Suggestion

You can make a suggestion in several ways:

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| You could **ask** your father | **mumkin** tis'al 'abook مـُـمكـِـن تـِـسأل أبوك |
| We **could** make a cake | **mumkin** niAamil keeka مـُـمكـِـن نـِـعـَـمـِـل كيكـَـة |
| **Let's** go to the cinema | **yalla** nirooh ilseeneema يـَـلاّ َ نـِـروح ا ِلسينيما َ |
| **Would you like to** go and have lunch together | **teegi** nirooh nitGadda sawa تيجي نـِـروح نـِـتغـَـدّى َ سـَـوا َ |
| **Would you like to** go out? | **tihibb** tirooh? تـِـحـِـبّ تـِـروح؟ |
| **Do you want to** come? | **Aaeyiz** teegy? عا َيـِـز تيجي؟ |

## Requests

When you want to ask somebody politely to do something, or for something, there are several ways of expressing this in English. In Egyptian, there are just two possiblities: using **mumkin** مـُـمكـِـن and a modal, or less formally, putting the prefix **mi-** مـِـ before the perfect.

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| **Could I have** an orange juice, please? | **mumkin** AaSeer burtu'aal, law samaht? مـُـمكـِـن عـَـصير بـُـرتـُـقا َل، لـَـو سـَـمـَـحت؟ |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Could** you open the door, please? | mumkin tiftah ilbaeb, law samaht?<br><div dir="rtl">مــُـمكــِن تــِفتــَج ا ِلبا َب، لــَو ســَمــَحت؟</div> |
| **Why don't** you entertain me? | misalleeni<br><div dir="rtl">مــِ سـَـلّـينِي</div> |

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# Questions

There are four main groups of questions.

- Direct- what, when, why
- Indirect- courteous question, whether
- Confirmation - isn't it so?
- Suggestions - Why don't you...?
- Rhetorical- you are making a point and don't expect an answer

## English quirks

In English, it is possible to ask a question in many different ways. some of these translate easily into Egyptian: others require a little thought. The ones you need to watch out for are:

- sentences with 'do' where you are not doing anything
- sentences with 'got' where you are not getting anything
- sentences with **how** followed by an adverb or adjective (see adverbal question)

For all English verbs except **is** and **have**, you can turn a statement into a question by putting **do** in front of it.

<p style="text-align:center">you know John<br>do you know John?</p>

.

In Egyptian, you can either add **hu<u>w</u>wa** هـُوّ at the start of the sentence or use inflection **you know john?**

The word **have** is somewhat overused in English, and British English speakers often reduce the risk of confusion by saying **have you got** rather than the older form, still used by many Americans, **do you have...?**. There is no equivalent in Egyptian, so inflection is used.

## Direct questions

It is possible to frame a direct question in several ways:

- using a query word at the end of the sentence
- preceding a sentence with **hu<u>w</u>wa** هـُوّ
- by inflection

## Query words

In English, a query word normally start the sentence: in Egyptian it is normally at the end of the sentence. For example

<p style="text-align:center"><b>where</b> are you going?<br>raayiH <b>fyn</b>?</p>

The following query words can be used:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| what | <u>'ieeh</u> | إيه |
| when | <u>'im</u>ta | إمتى |
| where | <u>feen</u> | فين |
| where from | mi<u>neen</u> | مـِنين |
| how | <u>'iz</u>zai | إزّ َي |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| which | 'anhw | أنهو |
| how many | kaam | كاَم<br>followed by singular noun |
| what (number) | kaam | كاَم |
| how much (of something) | 'add ieeh | قـَدّ ا ِيه |
| how much (money) | bikaam | بـِكا َم |
| why | leeh | ليه |

The simple imperfect (**'aAamil, tiAooz, yirooh** أعـَمـِل، تـِعوز، يـِروه) is often used in questions. Here are some examples:

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| **how** are you? | **'izzay**ak?<br>إزّ َي كَ؟ |
| how are you?<br>lit. **what** are you doing? | 'aAamil **'ieeh**?<br>أعـَمـِل إيه؟ |
| **what** are you doing? | bitaAamil **'ieeh**?<br>بـِتـَعـَمـِل إيه؟ |
| **when** will I see you? | 'ashoofak **'imta**?<br>أشوفـَك إمتى؟ |
| **where** is the station? | ilmahaTTa **feen**?<br>ا ِلمـَحـَطـّـَة فين؟ |
| **where** can I buy flowers from? | mumkin 'ashtiri ward **min feen**?<br>مـُمكِن أشتـِري و َرد مـِن فـِين؟ |
| **where** can I buy flowers from? | **mineen** mumkin 'ashtiri ward?<br>مـِنين مـُمكِن أشتـِري و َرد؟ |
| **where** are you from? | 'inta **mineen**?<br>إنتَ مـِنين؟ |
| **how** do I charge this phone? | 'ashhan iltileefoon dah **'izzay**?<br>أشحـَن ا ِلتـِليفون د َه إزّ َي؟ |
| **which** book (m) do you(m) want? | Aaawiz ilkitaab **'anhw**?<br>عاَو ِز ا ِلكـِتا َب أنهو؟ |
| **which** glass (f) is yours(m)? | **'anhw** ilkubaaya bitaAitak?<br>أنهو ا ِلكـُبا َيَة بـِتـَعـِتـَك؟ |
| **how much** milk would you like? | Aaawiz laban **'add ieeh**?<br>عاَو ِز لـَبـَن قـَدّ ا ِيه؟ |
| **how much** is this bag? | ilshanTa di **bikaam**?<br>ا ِلشـَنطـَة دي بـِكا َم؟ |
| **why** is he going? | huwwa raayih **leeh**?<br>هـُوّ َرا يـِح ليه؟ |

Here are some common answers to questions

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| How much? This much | <u>'add</u> ieeh? <u>'add</u> ki<u>dah</u><br>قَدّ اِيه؟ قَدّ كِدَه |
| Why? Because. | <u>leeh</u>? Aala<u>shaan</u><br>ليه؟ عَلَشاَن |
| Why? It's like that | <u>leeh</u>? ki<u>dah</u><br>ليه؟ كِدَه |
| Why? Better like this | <u>leeh</u>? 'ah<u>san</u> ki<u>dah</u><br>ليه؟ أحسَن كِدَه |
| Why? Why not? | <u>leeh</u>? leeh <u>laa</u>'?<br>ليه؟ ليه لاَء؟ |

To ask **how many** people or things, you should use <u>kaam</u> كاَم **before** the noun. To ask for a sequence or reference number (**what** or **which**, you put the <u>kaam</u> كاَم **after** the noun. In all of these cases, the noun is singular.

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| **How many** children do you have? | Aandak **kaam** <u>walad</u>?<br>عَند َك كا َم و َلَد؟ |
| **How many** days will you stay? | hati<u>nizil</u> **kaam** <u>yoom</u>?<br>هَتِنِيز ِل كا َم يوم؟ |
| **How many** guests tomorrow? | **<u>kaam</u>** zi<u>boon</u> buk<u>rah</u>?<br>كا َم ز ِبون بـُكر َه؟ |
| **What** is your telephone number? | nim<u>ritak</u> **kaam?**<br>نـِمر ِتـَك كا َم؟ |
| **What** time is it? | il<u>saa</u>Aa **kaam?**<br>اِلسا َعـَة كا َم؟ |
| **What** time is the meeting? | il'igti<u>maa</u>A il<u>saa</u>Aa **kaam?**<br>اِلإجتِماَع اِلسا َعـَة كا َم؟ |
| **What** is your apartment number? | sha"itak ra'<u>am</u> **kaam?**<br>شـَقّـِّتـَك ر َقـَم كا َم؟ |
| **Which** is your apartment? | sha"itak **'an<u>hw</u>?**<br>شـَقّـِّتـَك أنهو؟ |
| **Which** floor do you want? | Aaayiz door **kaam?**<br>عاَيـِز دور كا َم؟ |

## Pronoun questions

In English, it is possible to make a question by swapping the subject and verb. For example,

**he is** English
**is he** English?

The equivalent in Egyptian arabic is to put the query pronoun **hu<u>wwa</u>** هـُوَّ or, less frequently, **hall** هـَلّ at the start of the sentence. You should think of this as "Is it so that..."

**hu<u>wwa</u>** 'in<u>ta</u> gaai ma<u>Aa</u>naa?
هـُوَّ إنت َجا َي مـَعـَنَا ؟
**Is it so, that** you are coming with us?

hall 'inta raaDi Aan 'afaAelak?

هـَـلّ إنت َ را َضي عـَـن أفـَـعـْـلـَك؟

**Are you** satisfied with your actions?

## Inflection

In English, you can make a statement by saying **she is coming.** or turn it into a question, **she is coming?** just by the tone of your voice: the pitch rises a little at the end of the sentence to indicate a question. You can do exactly the same thing in Arabic. **hiya gayya** هـِـي َ جـَـيـِـبَة is a statement and **hiya gayya?** هـِـي َ جـَـيـِـبَة؟, with a rising pitch on the last syllable, is a question.

# Indirect questions (whether)

An indirect question is made up of two clauses: the first clause is often a courtesy clause "Could you possibly..." and the second clause is the real question. Here are some examples of direct and indirect questions.

| Direct | Indirect |
|---|---|
| where is the station? | Can you tell me where the station is? |
| what is the time? | Do you know what the time is? |
| is he coming? | Do you know whether he is coming? |

The query-word **whether** is used only in indirect questions: in Egyptian, **'iza** إذا ً is used for this.

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| Could I have a lemon juice? | mumkin Aaseer laymoon?<br>مـُـمكـِـن عـَـسير لـَـيمون؟ |
| Can you tell me **where** the station is? | mumkin ti'uli **feen** ilmahaTTa?<br>مـُـمكـِـن تـِـقـُـلي **فين** ا لمـَـحـَـطّـِـبَة؟ |
| Do you know **what** the time is? | 'inta Aaarif ilsaaAa **kaam**?<br>إنت َ عا َر ِف ا لِسا َعـَـة كا َم؟ |
| Do you know **whether** he is coming? | 'inta Aaarif **'iza** huwwa gayy?<br>إنت َ عا َر ِف **إذا ً** هـُـوّ َ جـَـيي؟ |

# Confirmation questions

If you are pretty sure about something but want to check, you can use one of the following methods:

| English | Arabic |
|---|---|
| he's coming, **isn't** he? | huwwa **mish** gaay?<br>هـُـوّ َ مـِـش جا َي؟ |
| he's coming, **isn't that so**? | huwwa gaay, **mish kidah**?<br>هـُـوّ َ جا َي، مـِـش كـِـد َه؟ |
| he's coming, **right**? | huwwa gaay, **Sahh**?<br>هـُـوّ َ جا َي، صـَـحّ؟ |

**Suggestions**

In English, you can suggest something by saying "Why don't you..." in Egyptian, you can get the same effect by putting **mi-** ـمِ on the front of a verb. For example:

<div align="center">

**ma__tsally-ny shuwayao**
**Why don't you** entertain me for a while?

</div>

## Rhetorical questions

A rhetorical question is used to make a point: you don't expect an answer. Any of the above methods can be used to ask rhetorical questions.

| English | Arabic |
|---------|--------|
| **wouldn't** it be better if you(m) shut up? | **mish** tiskut 'ahsan?<br>مـِش تـِسكـُت أحسـَن؟ |
| you(m) must be kidding! | bithazzar, **mish kidah**?<br>بـِتهـَزّ َر، مـِش كـِد َه؟ |
| you(m) are an idiot, **right**? | 'inta 'ahbal, **Sahh**?<br>إنت َ أهبـَل، صـَحّ؟ |

## Adverbal and adjectival questions

In English, it is possible to ask a question using **how** followed by an adjective or adverb. There is no similar construction in Egyptian, so it is necessary to re-phrase the question, usually so that you are asking for a number. Here are some examples:

| English | re-phrased | Egyptian |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| How fast were you driving? | **how many** kilometers an hour.. | **kaam** keeloomitr fi ilsaaAa<br>كا َم كيلومـِتر في ا ِلسا َعـَة |
| How often do you go to the gym? | **how many** times a week... | **kaam** marra fi il'usbwaA...<br>كا َم مـَرّ َة في ا ِلأ ُسبو َع،،، |
| How hot is the oven? | what is the temperature? | ilharraara **kaam**<br>ا ِلحـَر ّا َر َة كا َم |
| How difficult was the exam? | was the exam difficult | **huwwa** il'imtihaan kaan SaAb ?<br>هـُوّ َ ا ِلإمتـِحا َن كا َن صـَعـَب؟ |

# Negation

The word **mish** مـِش is used to negate a phrase. It is either placed in front of the verb or preposition, or wrapped around it.

| Structure | English | Arabic |
|---|---|---|
| Preposition | I have cigarettes | Aandi sagaayar<br>عـَندي سـِجا َيـَر |
| | I **don't** have any cigarettes | **ma**Aan**deesh** sagaayar<br>مـَعـَنديش سـِجا َيـَر |
| | There is water | fi mayaah<br>في مـَيا َه |
| | There is **no** water | **ma**fee**sh** mayaah<br>مـَفيش مـَيا َه |
| kaan | I was there | 'ana kunt hinaak<br>أنا َ كـُنت هـِنا َك |
| | I was **not** there | 'ana **ma**kunt**ish** hinaak<br>أنا َ مـَكـُنت ِش هـِنا َك |
| perfect | I saw Ahmed | 'ana shuft 'ahmad<br>أنا َ شـُفت أحمـَد |
| | I **did not** see Ahmed | 'ana **ma**shuft**ish** 'ahmad<br>أنا َ مـَشـُفت ِش أحمـَد |
| participle | I know | 'ana Aaarif<br>أنا َ عا َر ِف |
| | I **do not** know | 'ana **mish** Aaarif<br>أنا َ مـِش عا َر ِف<br><br>aacnaa maAaarifsh |
| imperfect | He wants to eat | Aaayiz yaakul<br>عا َيـِز يا َكـُل |
| | He **does not** want to eat | **mish** Aaayiz yaakul<br>مـِش عا َيـِز يا َكـُل |
| | he must **not** eat | **ma**yaakul**sh**<br>مـَيا َكـُلش |
| bi-imperfect | I like this book | bahibb ilkitaab dah<br>بـَحِيبّ ا ِلكِتا َب د َه |
| | I **do not** like this book | **ma**bahibb**sh** ilkitaab dah<br>مـَبـَحِيبّش ا ِلكِتا َب د َه<br><br>less common...<br>**mish** bahibb ilkitaab dah<br>مـِش بـَحِيبّ ا ِلكِتا َب د َه<br>] |
| Ha-imperfect | I will buy the book | hashtiri ilkitaab<br>ها َشتـِري ا ِلكِتا َب |
| | I will **not** buy the book | **mish** hashtiri ilkitaab |

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| | | مــِش ها َشتـِري ا ِلكـِتا َب |
|---|---|---|
| imperative | go away! | iimshy! |
| | **don't** go! | use mish+you-imperfect<br>**ma**tim<u>shee</u>**sh**<br><br>مــَـتـِمشيـش |

Sometimes ma- is used on it own- the -sh does not appear after the word. There are no rules about when this can happen.

# Numbers

Arabic digits are not the same as European digits, but unlike the letters they go in the same order-the least significant digit goes last, so the digits in a three digit number would be hundreds, tens and units. The digits are:

| Digit | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 ٠ | zero | Sifr | صِفر |
| 1 ١ | one | waahid | واحِـد |
| 2 ٢ | two | 'itneen | إتنين |
| 3 ٣ | three | talaata | تَلاتَة |
| 4 ٤ | four | 'arbaAa | أربَعَة |
| 5 ٥ | five | Kamsa | خَمسَة |
| 6 ٦ | six | sitta | سِتّة |
| 7 ٧ | seven | sabAa | سَبعَة |
| 8 ٨ | eight | tamanya | تَمانيَة |
| 9 ٩ | nine | tisAa | تِسعَة |
| 10 ١٠ | ten | Aashara | عَشَرَة |

## Cardinals and Ordinals

In both English and Egyptian, there are two forms of number- cardinals and ordinals. Cardinals are used to count things (one, two, three), Ordinals are used to describe sequence (first, second, etc).

| | Example | Function |
|---|---|---|
| Cardinal | five | used to count things |
| Ordinal | fifth | used to describe the order, or position in sequence, of something |

## Cardinals

Cardinals are used for counting and specifying how many of something. Usage of the first few numbers is complicated, but it gets easier after that :-). There are special rules for:

• People of a particular nationality (eg one Englishman)
• Quantities- weight, money, and when you are ordering something (eg teas)
• People in general (men, women etc)
• Things - everything else

The following table gives an overview of the situation:

| Number | Form | **Nationals** Egyptians | **Quantities** weight money tea | **People** men women | **Things** books chairs minutes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| zero | Sifr<br>صِـفر | | | | كُتوب |
| | mafeesh<br>مـَفيش<br>+plural noun | maSriyyin<br>مـَصرِييـن | wazn وَزن<br>filoos فـِلوس<br>shaai شاَي | rigaala رِجاَلاَ<br>sittaat سِـتّاَ ت | kutoob كـُتوب<br>karaasi كـَراَسي<br>da'aayi' دَقاَ يـِق |
| one | waahid<br>واَحِـد<br>+sing noun | maSri<br>مـَصري | keelw كيلو<br>gineeh جِـنيه<br>shaai شاَي | | |
| | wahda<br>واَحدَة<br>+sing noun | maSriya<br>مـَصرِيـَة | | | |
| | ns on its own | | | raagil راَجِـل<br>sitt سِـتّ | kitaab كِـتاَب<br>kursi كـُرسي<br>di'ee'a دِقيقَـة |
| two | 'itneen<br>إتنين<br>+plural noun | maSriyyin<br>مـَصرِييـن | | rigaala رِجاَلاَ<br>sittaat سِـتّاَ ت | |
| | 'itneen<br>إتنين<br>+sing noun | | keelw كيلو<br>geeneeh جينيه<br>shaai شاَي | | |
| | noun-yn | | | | kitabeen كِـتاَبين<br>kursiyyin كـُرسِـييـن |

| | | | | | di'i'teen |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | دِقـِقتين |
| three | talaata<br>تـَلا تـَة<br><br>+sing noun | maSri<br>مـَصري<br><br>maSrya<br>مـَصريـَة | keelw<br>كيلو<br><br>geeneeh<br>جينيه<br><br>shaai<br>شاَي | | |
| | talat<br>تـَلـَت<br><br>+plural noun | | | rigaala<br>رِجا َلا َ<br><br>sittaat<br>سـِتّا َت | kutoob<br>كـُتوب<br><br>karaasi<br>كـَرا َسي<br><br>da'aayi'<br>دَقا َيـِق |
| four thru nine, same as 3 | | | | | |

## Zero

For zero, there is no equivalent of **no** as in **no books**. Instead, the verb or preposition is negated with **mish** مـِش. For example, **fi** في means **there is...**, and so **mafeesh** مـَفِيش means **there is no....** As in English, the noun is a plural. Alternatively, you can use or without- **min Geer** مـِن غير.

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| zero | Sifr | صـِفر |
| no Egyptians (m/f) | mafeesh maSriyyin | مـَفِيش مـَصر ِييــِن |
| no weight | mafeesh wazn | مـَفِيش و َزن |
| no money | mafeesh filoos | مـَفِيش فـِلوس |
| no tea | mafeesh shaai | مـَفِيش شا َي |
| no men | mafeesh ragaala | مـَفِيش را َجا َلا َ |
| no women | mafeesh sittaat | مـَفِيش سـِتّا َت |
| no books | mafeesh kutoob | مـَفِيش كـُتوب |
| no chairs | mafeesh karaasi | مـَفِيش كـَرا َسي |
| no seconds | mafeesh da'aayi' | مـَفِيش د َقا َيـِق |

## One

The number one has a masculine and feminine form. Both forms are used for people of a particular nationality eg an Englishman.

For weights, money and when ordering things, the masculine form only is used.

In English, we would usually say **a book** rather than **one book**: the same is true in Egyptian, but there is no word for **a** - the noun is simply used on its own.

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| one | waahid | وِاَحِـِد |
| one Egyptian (m) | waahid maSri | وِاَحِـِد مِـَصري |
| one Egyptian (f) | wahda maSriya | وِحَـِـد ة مِـَصر ِيـَة |
| a kilo | waahid keelw | وِاَحِـِد كيلو |
| a guinea | waahid gineeh | وِاَحِـِد جِـِنيه |
| one tea | waahid shaai | وِاَحِـِد شاَ ـَي |
| a man | raagil | راَجِـِل |
| a woman | sitt | سِـِتّ |
| a book | kitaab | كِـِتاَ ـَب |
| a chair | kursi | كِـُرسي |

## Two

For people of a particular nationality, eg two Englishmen or two Egyptians, use the number **'itneen** إتنين followed by a plural noun.

For weights, money and orders, use the number **'itneen** إتنين followed by a singular noun.

For things, you should use the suffix **-yn** ين for masculine nouns and **-teen** تين for feminine nouns. Nouns ending in **-i** ي take the ending **-iyyin** ـيـيـن. This is equivalent to **a couple** which can mean exactly two, or approximately two.

| English | | |
|---|---|---|
| two | 'itneen | إتنين |
| two Egyptians (m/f) | 'itneen maSryyin | إتنين مِـَصرييـن |
| two kilos | 'itneen keelw | إتنين كيلو |
| two guineas | 'itneen gineeh | إتنين جِـِنيه |
| two teas | 'itneen shaai | إتنين شاَ ـَي |
| two men | 'itneen ragaala | إتنين رِـَجا ـَلاَ |
| two women | 'itneen sittaat | إتنين سِـِتّاَ ـَت |
| two books | kitabeen | كِـِتاَ ـَبين |
| two chair | kursiyyin | كِـُرسِـيـيـن |
| two minutes | di'i'teen | دِـِقِـِقتين |

## Three to Ten

For People of nationalities, use the number followed by a plural noun.

For weights, money and when ordering things, use the number followed by a singular noun.

For people and things, use the short form listed below followed by a plural noun:

| Digit | English | Egyptian | English | Egyptian |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **3** | three | talaata | three books | talat kutub |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ٣ | | تـَلا تـَة | | تـَلـَت كـُتـُب |
| 4 ٤ | four | 'arbaAa أربـَعـَة | four books | 'arbaAa kutub أربـَع كـُتـُب |
| 5 ٥ | five | Kamsa خـَمسـَة | five books | Kamas kutub خـَمـَس كـُتـُب |
| 6 ٦ | six | sitta سـِتّـَة | six books | sitt kutub سـِتّ كـُتـُب |
| 7 ٧ | seven | sabAa سـَبعـَة | seven books | sabaA kutub سـَبـَع كـُتـُب |
| 8 ٨ | eight | tamanya تـَما نيـَة | eight books | taman kutub تـَمـَن كـُتـُب |
| 9 ٩ | nine | tisAa تـِسعـَة | nine books | tisAa kutub تـِسع كـُتـُب |
| 10 ١٠ | ten | Aashara عـَشـَر ة | ten books | Aashara kutub عـَشـَر ة كـُتـُب |

A very small number of nouns have a different plural when you are talking about between 3 and 10 of them. These are:

| English | Singular | | Plural | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| day | yoom | يوم | tiyaem | تـِيا َم |
| mont | shahr | شـَهر | tushhoor | تـُشهور |
| person | nafar | نـَفـَر | tinfaar | تـِنفا َر |
| plate | Taba' | طـَبـَق | tiTbaa' | تـِطبا َق |
| thousand | 'alf | ألف | talaaf | تـَلا َف |

## Eleven to Ninety Nine

From 11 onwards, if the number is followed by a noun, the noun must be singular:

| English | Egyptian | English | Egyptian |
|---|---|---|---|
| eleven | hidaashar حـِدا َشـَر | eleven books | hidaashar kitaab حـِدا َشـَر كـِتا َب |
| twelve | 'itnaashar إتنا َشـَر | twelve books | 'itnaashar kitaab إتنا َشـَر كـِتا َب |
| thirteen | talatshar تـَلا َتشـَر | thirteen books | talatshar kitaab تـَلا َتشـَر كـِتا َب |
| fourteen | 'arbaAtashar أربـَعتـَشـَر | fourteen books | 'arbatAshar kitaab أربـَتعشـَر كـِتا َب |
| fifteen | Kamastashar خـَمـَستـَشـَر | fifteen books | Kamastashar kitaab خـَمـَستـَشـَر كـِتا َب |
| sixteen | sittashar سـِتّـَشـَر | sixteen books | sittashar kitaab سـِتّـَشـَر كـِتا َب |
| seventeen | sabaAtashar | seventeen books | sabaAtashar kitaab |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | سـِبـَعتـَشـَر | | سـِبـَعتـَشـَر كـِتا َب |
| eighteen | taman<u>tashar</u><br>تـَمـَنتـَشـَر | eighteen books | taman<u>tashar</u> ki<u>taab</u><br>تـَمـَنتـَشـَر كـِتا َب |
| nineteen | tisAa<u>tashar</u><br>تـِسعـَتـَشـَر | nineteen books | tisAa<u>tashar</u> ki<u>taab</u><br>تـِسعـَتـَشـَر كـِتا َب |

The digits in Egyptian numbers are written in the same order as in European numbers. When expressed as words, however, the two digits are stated as units and tens, as in German not English, with **wa** و َ in between:

35 thirty five

٣٥ خـَمسـَة و َ تـَلـَتين

Here are the numbers from 20 to 90:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| twenty | Aasha<u>reen</u> | عـِ<br>ـشـَرين |
| thirty | tala<u>teen</u> | تـَلـَتين |
| forty | 'arba<u>Aeen</u> | أربـَعين |
| fifty | Kam<u>seen</u> | خـَمسين |
| sixty | sit<u>teen</u> | سـِتّين |
| seventy | saba<u>Aeen</u> | سـَبـَعين |
| eighty | tama<u>neen</u> | تـَمـَنين |
| ninety | tis<u>Aeen</u> | تـِسعين |

## Hundreds

Here are the numbers from one to nine hundred. Note that the short form **meet** ميت is used when hundreds are followed by a noun (which must be singular):

| English | Egyptian | | short form<br>+ singular noun | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| one hundred | <u>mi</u>ya | مـِيـَة | <u>meet</u> ki<u>taab</u> | ميت كـِتا َب |
| two hundred | mi<u>teen</u> | مـِتين | mi<u>teen</u> ki<u>taab</u> | مـِتين كـِتا َب |
| three hundred | tultu<u>mi</u>ya | تـُلتـُمـِيـَة | tultu<u>meet</u> ki<u>taab</u> | تـُلتـُميت كـِتا َب |
| four hundred | rubAu<u>mi</u>ya | رُبعـُمـِيـَة | rubAu<u>meet</u> ki<u>taab</u> | رُبعـُميت كـِتا َب |
| five hundred | Kamsu<u>mi</u>ya | خـَمسـُمـِيـَة | Kamsa<u>meet</u> ki<u>taab</u> | خـَمسـَميت كـِتا َب |
| six hundred | suttu<u>mi</u>ya | سـُتّـُمـِيـَة | suttu<u>meet</u> ki<u>taab</u> | سـُتّـُميت كـِتا َب |
| seven hundred | subuA<u>mi</u>ya | سـُبـُعمـِيـَة | subuA<u>meet</u> ki<u>taab</u> | سـُبـُعميت كـِتا َب |
| eight hundred | tumunu<u>mi</u>ya | تـُمـُنـُمـِيـَة | tumunu<u>meet</u> ki<u>taab</u> | تـُمـُنـُميت كـِتا َب |
| nine hundred | tusAu<u>mi</u>ya | تـُسعـُمـِيـَة | tusAu<u>meet</u> ki<u>taab</u><br>تـُسعـُميت كـِتا َب | |

## Thousands

Here are the numbers from one to nine thousand. Five thousand should really be **Kam<u>saat</u> 'alf** خَـمسا َت ألف, but it is pronounced as below.

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| one thousand | alf | اَلف |
| two thousand | al<u>feen</u> | اَلفين |
| three thousand | <u>ta</u>lat ta<u>laaf</u> | تَـلَـت تَـلَا َف |
| four thousand | 'ar<u>ba</u>A ta<u>laaf</u> | أربَـع تَـلَا َف |
| five thousand | <u>Ka</u>mas ta<u>laaf</u> | خَـمَـس تَـلَا َف |
| six thousand | <u>sit</u> ta<u>laaf</u> | سِـت تَـلَا َف |
| seven thousand | <u>sa</u>baA ta<u>laaf</u> | سَـبَـع تَـلَا َف |
| eight thousand | <u>ta</u>man ta<u>laaf</u> | تَـمَـن تَـلَا َف |
| nine thousand | <u>ti</u>saA ta<u>laaf</u> | تِـسِـع تَـلَا َف |
| ten thousand | <u>Aa</u>shar ta<u>laaf</u> | عَـشَـر تَـلَا َف |

## Ordinals

To explain the sequence of things (first, second, third), you use the ordinal. It can be either as an adjective or as a noun in the genitive form: As an adjective, the ordinal be preceded by **il** الـ and, for 1 to 9, must agree with the gender of the noun. From 11 onwards, the cardinal numbers are the same as ordinals, and are used as adjectives only.

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| the third day | il<u>yoom</u> il<u>taa</u>lit | اِليوم ا ِلتا َلِـت |
| third day | <u>taa</u>lit yoom | تاَلِـت يوم |
| the third time | il<u>marra</u> il<u>tal</u>ta | اِلمَـرّ َة ا ِلتا َلتَـة |
| third time | <u>taa</u>lit <u>marra</u> | تاَلِـت مَـرّ َة |
| the tenth day | il<u>yoom</u> il<u>Aa</u>ashir | اِليوم ا ِلعا َشِـر |
| tenth day | <u>Aa</u>ashir yoom | عاَشِـر يوم |
| the tenth time | il<u>marra</u> il<u>Aa</u>shra | اِلمَـرّ َة ا ِلعا َشِـر َة |
| tenth time | <u>Aa</u>ashir <u>marra</u> | عاَشِـر مَـرّ َة |
| the eleventh day | il<u>yoom</u> il<u>hidaa</u>shar | اِليوم ا ِلحِـدا َشَـر |
| eleventh time | il<u>marra</u> il<u>hidaa</u>shar | اِلمَـرّ َة ا ِلحِـدا َشَـر |
| the twentieth day | il<u>yoom</u> il<u>Aa</u>sha<u>reen</u> | اِليوم ا ِلعَـشَـرين |
| twentieh time | il<u>marra</u> il<u>Aa</u>sha<u>reen</u> | اِلمَـرّ َة ا ِلعَـشَـرين |

Here are the first ten ordinals:

| English | Egyptian | English | Egyptian |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| first | awwil | اَوّ ِل | the first book | ilkitaab il'awwil | الكِتا َب ا ِلأوّ ِل |
| | 'uoola | أُ ْولا َ | the first cat | il'uTTa il'uoola | القُـطّـ ِـة ا ِلأ ْولا َ |
| second | taani | تا َني | the second book | ilkitaab iltaani | الكِتا َب ا ِلتا َني |
| | tanya | تا َنيـ َة | the second cat | il'uTTa iltanya | القُـطّـ ِـة ا ِلتا َنيـ َة |
| third | taalit | تا َلـ ِت | the third book | ilkitaab iltaalit | الكِتا َب ا ِلتا َلـ ِت |
| | talta | تا َلتـ َة | the third cat | il'uTTa iltalta | القُـطّـ ِـة ا ِلتا َلتـ َة |
| fourth | rabAa | را َبـ َع | the fourth book | ilkitaab ilrabAa | الكِتا َب ا ِلرا َبـ َع |
| | rabAa | ر َبعـ َة | the fourth cat | il'uTTa ilrabAa | القُـطّـ ِـة ا ِلر َبعـ َة |
| fifth | Kams | خا َمس | the fifth book | ilkitaab ilKaamis | الكِتا َب ا ِلخا َمـ ِس |
| | Kamsa | خـ َمسـ َة | the fifth cat | il'uTTa ilKamsa | القُـطّـ ِـة ا ِلخـ َمسـ َة |
| sixth | saadis | سا َد ِس | the sixth book | ilkitaab ilsaadis | الكِتا َب ا ِلسا َد ِس |
| | saatit | سا َتـ ِة | the sixth cat | il'uTTa ilsaatit | القُـطّـ ِـة ا ِلسا َتـ ِة |
| seventh | saabiA | سا َبـ ِع | the seventh book | ilkitaab ilsaabiA | الكِتا َب ا ِلسا َبـ ِع |
| seventh | sabAa | سا َبـ ِعـ َة | the seventh cat | il'uTTa ilsabAa | القُـطّـ ِـة ا ِلسا َبـ ِعـ َة |
| eighth | taamin | تا َمـ ِن | the eighth book | ilkitaab iltaamin | الكِتا َب ا ِلتا َمـ ِن |
| eighth | tamna | تـ َمنـ َة | the eighth cat | il'uTTa iltamna | القُـطّـ ِـة ا ِلتـ َمنـ َة |
| ninth | taasiA | تا َسـ ِع | the ninth book | ilkitaab iltaasiA | الكِتا َب ا ِلتا َسـ ِع |
| ninth | tasAa | تا َسعـ َة | the ninth cat | il'uTTa iltasAa | القُـطّـ ِـة ا ِلتا َسـ ِعـ َة |
| tenth | Aaashir | عا َشـ ِير | the tenth book | ilkitaab ilAaashir | الكِتا َب ا ِلعا َشـ ِير |
| tenth | Aashra | عا َشـ ِير َة | the tenth cat | il'uTTa ilAashra<br>القُـطّـ ِـة ا ِلعا َشـ ِير َة | |

From the eleventh onwards, the cardinal and ordinal are the same. Here are some examples:

| Number | Ordinal | | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| eleven | hidaashar | حـ ِدا َشـ َر | the eleventh book | ilkitaab ilhidaashar | الكِتا َب ا ِلحـ ِدا َشـ َر |
| twelve | 'itnaashar | إتنا َشـ َر | the twelfth book | ilkitaab il'itnashar | الكِتا َب ا ِلإتنـ َشـ َر |
| thirteen | talaatashar | تـ َلا تـ َشـر | the thirteenth book | ilkitaab iltalaatashar | الكِتا َب ا ِلتـ َلا تـ َشـ َر |
| twenty | Aashareen | عـ َشـ َرين | the twentieth book | ilkitaab ilAashareen | الكِتا َب ا ِلعـ َشـ َرين |
| thirty | thalateen | ثـ َلـ َتين | the thirtieth book | ilkitaab iltalateen | الكِتا َب ا ِلتـ َلـ َتين |
| forty | 'arbaAeen | أربـ َعين | the fortieth book | ilkitaab il'arbaAeen | الكِتا َب ا ِلأربـ َعين |
| one hundred | miya | مـ ِيـ َة | the hundredth book | ilkitaab ilmiya | الكِتا َب ا ِلمـ ِيـ َة |
| two hundred | miteen | مـ ِتين | the two hundredth book | ilkitaab ilmiteen | الكِتا َب ا ِلمـ ِتين |

| three hundred | tultumiya | تـُلـتـُمـِيـَة | the three hundredth book | ilkitaab iltultumiya | الـكـِتـا َب ا ِلتـُلتـُمـِيـَة |
| one thousand | 'alf | ألف | the thousandth book | ilkitaab il'alf | الـكـِتـا َب ا ِلألف |

## Fractions

The following fractions are widely used:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| half | nooS | نوص |
| a third | tilt | تـِلت |
| a quarter | rubaA | رُبـَع |
| three quarters | talaat 'arbaAa | تـَلا َت أربـَع |

## Questions

To ask **how many** people or things, you should use **kam كـَم** before the noun. To ask for a sequence or reference number (**what** or **which**, you put the **kam كـَم** after the noun. In all of these cases, the noun is singular.

| Type | English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|---|
| count | How many children do you have? | Aandak kam walad? | عـَند َك كـَم و َلـَد؟ |
| count | How many days will you stay? | kam yoom hatinizil? | كـَم يوم هـَتـِنـِيز ِل؟ |
| count | How many guests tomorrow? | kam ziboon bukrah? | كـَم ز ِبون بـُكر َه؟ |
| what | What is your telephone number? | nimritak kaam? | نـِمر ِتـَك كا َم؟ |
| what | What time is it? | ilsaaAa kaam? | ا ِلسا َعـَة كا َم؟ |
| what | What time is the meeting? | il'igtimaaA ilsaaAa kaam? | ا ِلإجتـِما َع ا ِلسا َعـَة كا َم؟ |
| what | What is your apartment number? | sha"eetak raQam kaam? | شـَقّـيّتـَك ر َقـَم كا َم؟ |
| which | Which floor do you want? | Aaayiz door kaam? | عا َيـِز دور كا َم؟ |

# Ownership

There are several different ways to indicate ownership and belonging. These are:

| Egyptian | Meaning | Egyptian | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| possessive pronoun | my/your/his | 'ismuh<br>إسم ُه | **his** name |
| simple genitive | of | ism **ilwalad**<br>اِسم اِلو َلَد | the name **of** the boy |
| bitaaA<br>بـِتا َع | belonging | ilbasboor **bitaaAi**<br>اِلبـَسبور **بـِتا َعي** | **my** passport |
| Aand<br>عـَند | ownership | **Aandi** biyt<br>عـَندي بـِيت | I **have** a house |
| maAa<br>مـَع | have with you | **maAaak** kabreet?<br>مـَعا َك كـَبريت؟ | Do you **have** matches (on you)? |
| li<br>لي | having for a purpose intended for attached | fi boosTa **leek**<br>في بوسطـَة ليك | there is some post **for you** |
| milk<br>مـِلك | (my/your/his) property | ilbiyt dah **milkuh**<br>اِلبـِيت د َه مـِلكـُه | that house is **his property** |

## possessive pronoun

In both English and Egyptian, the most common way of expressing ownership is with a posessive pronoun (my, your... etc). In Egyptian, this is a suffix attached to the noun. Here are some examples:

| English | Arabic |
|---|---|
| **my** name | 'ismi<br>إسمي |
| **your(m)** name | 'ismak<br>إسم َك |
| **your(f)** name | 'ismik<br>إسم ِك |
| **my** house | biyti<br>بـِيت ِي |
| **his** house | biytuh<br>بـِيت ُه |
| **my** father | 'abwya<br>أبويا |
| **your(f)** father | 'abooha<br>أبوها |
| **his** father | 'abooh<br>أبوه |
| **our** god | rabbina<br>ر َبّ ِنا |

The posessive pronouns themselves are pretty easy to learn, but when the pronouns are attached to nouns, the vowels do a little dance to make sure that you don't get three consonants in a row. See pronouns for more information.

## simple genitive

In English, the simple genitive can take two forms: both are expressed in the same way in arabic.

| English | Egyptian |
|---------|----------|
| the man's name | 'ism ilraagil<br>إسم الراجـِـل |
| the name of the man | 'ism ilraagil<br>إسم الراجـِـل |

**il-** الـ can be attached to the second noun if required, but must never be attached to the first noun. If the first noun is feminine, the **-a** ـَة ending changes to **-it** ـِت. Nothing must be placed between the two nouns. Adjectives go after the second noun, but must agree in gender and number with the first noun. If a possessive suffix is required, it must go on the second word (or use **bitaaA** بـِتا عَ). Here are some examples:

| English | Egyptian |
|---------|----------|
| the boy**'s** name is strange | 'ism ilwalad Gareeb<br>إسم الولـَد غـَـريب |
| I have **her** telephone number | Aandi nimrit tileefoon**ha**<br>عـَندي نـِمرِة تـِليفونها ـَ |
| Where is the railway station? | mahaTit il'aTr feen?<br>مـَحـَطـِة الـقـَطر فين؟ |
| Do you know **my** cousin? (uncle's son) | 'inta Aaarif 'ibn Aamm**y**?<br>إنتَ عا رِف إبن عـَمّي؟ |
| Do you know **my** cousin? (uncle's son) | tiAarif 'ibn Aamm**y**?<br>تـِعـَرِف إبن عـَمّي؟ |
| Have you seen the boss**'s** new car? | 'inta shoof Aarabiy**it** ilmudeer ilgideeda?<br>إنتَ شوفت عـَرَبيـِة الـمـُدير الـجـِديدَة؟ |
| Have you seen the new boss**'s** car? | 'inta shoof ilAarabiya 'illi ma**Aa** ilmudeer ilgideed?<br>إنتَ شوفت الـعـَرَبيـَة إلّي مـَعـَ الـمـُدير الـجـِديد؟ |
| I want a bottle **of** water | Aaayiz 'izzaaz**it** mayaah<br>عاَيـِز إزّا زِة مـَياَه |
| give me this bottle **of** water | iddeeni 'izzaaz**it** ilmayaah dyh<br>اِدّيني إزّا زِة الـمـَياَه |

## Belonging- bitaA بـِتـَع

**bitaA** بـِتـَع is used in several ways:

- noun + bitaA + possessive suffix, to indicate ownership
- noun + bitaA + possessive suffix, as an alternative to a genitive
- bitaA + product (milk, onions, tyres etc), to indicate somebody who sells the product
- bitaA + possessive suffix, to refer to a man's or woman's private parts

**bitaA** بـِتـَع is always used for ownership when the noun ends in **-yn** ين and for imported words (my villa). It is not used for parts of the body (my leg).

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| I have lost **my** passport | 'ana DayAt ilbas<u>boor</u> **bitaaAi**<br>أنا َضا َيعت ا ِلبـَسبور بـِتا َعي |
| how many rooms does **your** villa have? | Aandak kam 'uooDa fi il<u>vee</u>la **bitaAtak?**<br>عـَند َك كـَم أ ُوضـَة في ا ِلڤيلا بـِتا َعتـَك ؟ |
| Where are **your** teachers? | <u>feen</u> ilmudarri<u>seen</u> **bitwaAak?**<br>فين ا ِلمـُد َرّ ِسين بـِتو َعـِك؟ |
| He is a vegetable **seller** | hu<u>ww</u>a **bitaaA** Ku<u>Daa</u>r<br>هـُوّ َ بـِتا َع خـُضا َر |
| He is a milk **seller**<br>*means he's a ladies' man* | hu<u>ww</u>a **bitaaA** la<u>ban</u><br>هـُوّ َ بـِتا َع لـَبـَن |
| Stop scratching **yourself!** | baTTal tuh<u>rush</u> fi **bitaaAak**<br>بـَطـّـَل تـُهر ُش في بـِتا َعـَك |

**bitaaA** بـِتا َع is like a participle, so it has to agree in gender and number with the noun. Here are all of the possible endings:

| English | m | f | pl |
|---|---|---|---|
| | the book | the bag | the books |
| | ilki<u>taa</u>b bi<u>taa</u>A-<br>ا ِلكـِتا َب بـِتا َعـ | il<u>shan</u>Ta bi<u>taa</u>t-<br>ا ِلشـَنطـَة بـِتا َعتـ | ilku<u>toob</u> bi<u>too</u>A-<br>ا ِلكـُتُوب بـِتوعـ |
| belonging to me | bitaaAi<br>بـِتا َعي | bitaAti<br>بـِتا َعتي | bitooAi<br>بـِتوعي |
| belonging to us | bitaAna<br>بـِتا َعنا َ | bitaaAitna<br>بـِتا َعـِتنا َ | bitooAna<br>بـِتوعناَ |
| belonging to you(m) | bitaaAak<br>بـِتا َعـَك | bitaAtak<br>بـِتا َعتـَك | bitooAak<br>بـِتوعـَك |
| belonging to you(f) | bitaaAik<br>بـِتا َعـِك | bitaAtik<br>بـِتا َعتـِك | bitooAik<br>بـِتوعـِك |
| belonging to you(pl) | bitaAkum<br>بـِتا َعكـُم | bitaaAitkum<br>بـِتا َعـِتكـُم | bitooAkum<br>بـِتوعكـُم |
| belonging to him | bitaaAuh<br>بـِتا َعـْه | bitaAtuh<br>بـِتا َعتـْه | bitooAuh<br>بـِتوعـْه |
| belonging to her | bitaAha<br>بـِتا َعها َ | bitaaAitha<br>بـِتا َعـِتهاَ | bitooAha<br>بـِتوعهاَ |
| belonging to them | bitaAhum<br>بـِتا َعهـُم | bitaaAithum<br>بـِتا َعـِتهـُم | bitooAhum<br>بـِتوعهـُم |

# Ownership - <u>Aand</u> عـَند

<u>Aand</u> عـَند means that you **own** something but don't necessarily have with you. It can also be used about members of your family. An object pronoun can be added to indicate who owns something. Here are some examples:

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| **I have** a car | **Aandi** Aara<u>bi</u>ya |

| | عـَندي عـَر بَـيـِـَة |
|---|---|
| **he has** two children | **Aanduh** wala<u>deen</u><br>عـَند ُه و كـَـدِين |
| do **you have** any books? | **Aandak** ku<u>tub</u>?<br>عـَند كَ كـُتـُـب؟ |

Here are all of the possible forms.

| English | Arabic |
|---|---|
| I have | <u>Aan</u>di<br>عـَندي |
| we have | Aan<u>dina</u><br>عـَند ِناَ |
| you(m) have | <u>Aan</u>dak<br>عـَند َك |
| you(f) have | <u>Aan</u>dik<br>عـَند ِك |
| you(pl) have | Aan<u>du</u>kum<br>عـَند ُكـُم |
| he has | <u>Aan</u>duh<br>عـَند ُه |
| she has | Aan<u>da</u>ha<br>عـَند َهاَ |
| they have | Aan<u>du</u>hum<br>عـَند ُهـُم |

# Having with you <u>maAa</u> مـَعَ

**maAa** مـَعَ means that you have something or somebody **with** you. It takes an object suffix to say who it is with.

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| Do **you have** the keys? | **maAak** ilmafa<u>teeh</u>?<br>مـَعـَك ا ِلمـَفا َتيح؟ |
| I will go **with you** | 'ana ha<u>rooh</u> **ma<u>Aaak</u>**<br>أناَ ها َروح مـَعـَـَك |
| Do **you have** any change? | **maAak** fak<u>ka</u>?<br>مـَعـَك فـَكـِّـَة؟ |

<

Here are all of the possible forms:

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| I have | maAaaya<br>مـَعا َياَ |
| we have | maAaana<br>مـَعا َناَ |

| | |
|---|---|
| you(m) have | maAaak<br>مـَعا َك |
| you(f) have | maAaaki<br>مـَعا َكي |
| you(pl) have | maAaakum<br>مـَعا َكـُم |
| he has | maAaah<br>مـَعا َه |
| she has | maAaaha<br>مـَعا َها َ |
| they have | maAaahum<br>مـَعا َهـُم |

## intended for - **ly-** ليـ

**li** لي can be used for parts of the body, members of your family, for something that is attached, and for something that is intended for somebody or something. It is also used when an inanimate object has something. Here are some examples:

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| **he has** only one leg | **leeh** rigl wahda bas<br>ليه رِجل وا َحدَ ة بـَس |
| **she has** two children | **leeha** waladeen<br>ليها َ و كَـَدين |
| there is mail **for you (f)** | fi boosTa **leeki**<br>في بوسطـَة **ليكي** |
| I owe you five pounds<br>Lit: I have five founds for **you(m)** | Aandi Kamsa gineet **leek**<br>عـَندي خـَمسـَة جِـنية **ليك** |
| this present is for (all of) **you(pl)** | ilhidaya di **leekum**<br>اِلـهِـد َيـَة دي **ليكـُم** |
| I want a garden seat<br>A seat intended **for** the garden | Aaayiz kursi **lil**giniyna<br>عا َيـِز كـُرسي لـِلجِـنِـينـَة |
| the flat **has** a garage | ilsha''a **leeha** garaaj<br>اِلشـَقّـَـة **ليها** َ جـَرا َچ |
| the flat **has** two bedrooms<br>use **fi** في because rooms are inside | ilsha''a **feeha**'uooDteen<br>اِلشـَقّـَـة **فيها** آ ُوضتين |

Here are all of the possible forms:

| English | m |
|---|---|
| I have | liya<br>لـِـي َ |
| we have | leena<br>لينا َ |
| you(m) have | leek<br>ليك |
| you(f) have | leeki |

| | ليكي |
|---|---|
| you(pl) have | leekum<br>ليكـُم |
| he has | leeh<br>ليه |
| she has | leeha<br>ليهاَ |
| they have | leehum<br>ليهـُم |

# Possession property milk مـِلك

Ownership of real estate - houses, land etc, can be expressed with **milk-** مـِلك plus a suffix.

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| He has **his own** house | Aanduh biyt **milkuh**<br>عـَند ُه بـِيت مـِلكـُه |
| **I own** land in Hurghada | Aandi 'arD **milk** fi ilGarda'a<br>عـَندي أرض مـِلك في ا ِلغـَرد َقـَة |

# Quantities

You can specify a quantity in several ways:

- measures - metres, kilos etc
- numbers
- containers - packs, bottles etc
- approximate amounts - a little, a lot etc

## Measures

For weights, lengths and other measurements, you use a number followed by a singular noun.

| Ahmed is **1m90** tall | 'a<u>h</u>mad Too<u>l</u>ooh **mitr 1 wa 90 <u>s</u>anti**<br>أحمـَد طولوه مـِتر ١ و ٓ ٩٠ سـَـنتي |
|---|---|
| this bag is **20 pounds** | il<u>shan</u>Ta dih <u>bi</u> **Ai<u>sh</u>reen gineeh**<br>الشـَـنطـَـة د ِه ب ِ عـِـشرين جـِـنيه |
| **2 kilos** of potatoes, please | **'it<u>n</u>een keelw** ba<u>Taa</u>Tis, law sa<u>m</u>aht<br>إتنين كيلو بـَطا طـِـس، لـَو سـَـمـَـحت |
| I want **a hundred grams** of salami | Aaayiz **meet <u>g</u>aram** sa<u>laa</u>mi<br>عاَيـِز ميت جـَـر َم سـَـلا َمي |
| I need **a quarter kilo** of butter | mi<u>h</u>taag **rubaA keelw** zib<u>d</u>a<br>مـِحتا َج ر ُبـَع كيلو ز ِبد َة |
| the truck brought **eight tonnes** of water | ilAara<u>b</u>iya gaa<u>bit</u> **taman<u>y</u>a Tun** ma<u>yaat</u><br>الـعـَر َبـِـيـَة جا َبـِت تـَـما َنيـَة طـُن مـَيا َة |

## Numbers

See the section in for more information about this.

## Containers

If you want something in a container of some sort: carton, bottle, etc, you use the genitive of the container. The main effect of this is that words ending in tee-marbuta **-a** ـَة are pronounced **-it** ـِت. Here are some examples:

| you must take **one spoonful** of medicine | laazim ta<u>K</u>uz **maAla'it** da<u>wa'</u><br>لا َز ِم تـَـخـُذ مـَعلـَقيـَة د َوا َء |
|---|---|
| I want **a pack** of cigarettes | Aaayiz **Aal<u>bit</u>** sagaayar<br>عاَيـِز عـَلبيـَة سـَجا َيـَر |
| **a bottle** of water, please | **'iz<u>z</u>aazit** maa<u>y</u>a, law sa<u>m</u>aht<br>إز ّا َز ِة ما َيـَة، لـَو سـَـمـَـحت |

## A/an and Some

In English, if you are talk about one non-specific instance that is countable you would use the indefinite article **a** or **an**, for example **a book** or **an apple**. There is no equivalent of a/an or some in Egyptian arabic.

Likewise, when you are talking about an unspecified amount something that is not countable, you say **some sugar**. Again, there is no equivalent in Egyptian Arabic. You can specify a quantity, for example shu<u>w</u>ayit

شـُـو َيـِـة

(a little) but there is no word for an unspecified quantity.

## Approximate measures

| | |
|---|---|
| tea **without** sugar | shaai **meen Geer** sukkar<br>شاَي **مين غير** سـُكـّـَـَر |
| **normal** tea<br>(with three sugar) | shaai **mazbooT**<br>شاَي مـَـزبوط |
| **weak** tea | shaai **Kafeef**<br>شاَي خـَفيف |
| **strong** tea | shaai **ti'eel**<br>شاَي تـِقيل |
| **a little** milk | **shuwayit** laban<br>شـُو َيـِية لـَبـَن |
| I don't have **enough** money | maAandeesh filoos **kifaaya**<br>مـَعـَنديش فـِلوس كـِفا َيـَة |
| he has **a lot** of money | Aanduh filoos **kiteer**<br>عـَند ُه فـِلوس كـِتير |
| you have **a lot** of friends<br>informal | Aandak 'aShaab **yaama**<br>عـَند َك أصحا َب يا َما َ |

# Questions

There are four main groups of questions.

- Direct- what, when, why
- Indirect- courteous question, whether
- Confirmation - isn't it so?
- Suggestions - Why don't you...?
- Rhetorical- you are making a point and don't expect an answer

## English quirks

In English, it is possible to ask a question in many different ways. some of these translate easily into Egyptian: others require a little thought. The ones you need to watch out for are:

- sentences with 'do' where you are not doing anything
- sentences with 'got' where you are not getting anything
- sentences with **how** followed by an adverb or adjective (see adverbal question)

For all English verbs except **is** and **have**, you can turn a statement into a question by putting **do** in front of it.

<div align="center">
you know John<br>
do you know John?
</div>

.

In Egyptian, you can either add **hu<u>w</u>wa** هـُـوّـَّ at the start of the sentence or use inflection **you know john?**

The word **have** is somewhat overused in English, and British English speakers often reduce the risk of confusion by saying **have you got** rather than the older form, still used by many Americans, **do you have...?**. There is no equivalent in Egyptian, so inflection is used.

## Direct questions

It is possible to frame a direct question in several ways:

- using a query word at the end of the sentence
- preceding a sentence with **hu<u>w</u>wa** هـُـوّـَّ
- by inflection

## Query words

In English, a query word normally start the sentence: in Egyptian it is normally at the end of the sentence. For example

<div align="center">
**where** are you going?<br>
raayiH **fyn**?
</div>

The following query words can be used:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| what | <u>'ieeh</u> | إيه |
| when | <u>'im</u>ta | إمتى |
| where | <u>feen</u> | فين |
| where from | mi<u>neen</u> | مـِـنين |
| how | <u>'iz</u>zai | إزّ َـَي |

| which | 'anhw | أنهو |
|---|---|---|
| how many | kaam | كاَم<br>followed by singular noun |
| what (number) | kaam | كاَم |
| how much (of something) | 'add ieeh | قـَدّ ا ِيه |
| how much (money) | bikaam | بـِكاَم |
| why | leeh | ليه |

The simple imperfect ('aAamil, tiAooz, yirooh أعـَمـِل، تـِعوز، بـِـيروه) is often used in questions. Here are some examples:

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| **how** are you? | **'izzay**ak?<br>إزّ َي كَك؟ |
| how are you?<br>lit. **what** are you doing? | 'aAamil **'ieeh**?<br>أعـَمـِل إيه؟ |
| **what** are you doing? | bitaAamil **'ieeh**?<br>بـِتـَعـَمـِل إيه؟ |
| **when** will I see you? | 'ashoofak **'imta**?<br>أشوفـَك إمتى؟ |
| **where** is the station? | ilmahaTTa **feen**?<br>اِلمـَحـَطّـِـة فين؟ |
| **where** can I buy flowers from? | mumkin 'ashtiri ward **min feen**?<br>مـُمكِن أشتـِري وَرد مـِن فـِين؟ |
| **where** can I buy flowers from? | **mineen** mumkin 'ashtiri ward?<br>مـِنين مـُمكِن أشتـِري وَرد؟ |
| **where** are you from? | 'inta **mineen**?<br>إنت َ مـِنين؟ |
| **how** do I charge this phone? | 'ashhan iltileefoon dah **'izzay**?<br>أشحـَن ا ِلتـِليفون د َه إزّ َي؟ |
| **which** book (m) do you(m) want? | Aaawiz ilkitaab **'anhw**?<br>عاَو ِز ا ِلكـِتاَب أنهو؟ |
| **which** glass (f) is yours(m)? | **'anhw** ilkubaaya bitaAitak?<br>أنهو ا ِلكـُباَ يَة بـِتـَعـِتـَك؟ |
| **how much** milk would you like? | Aaawiz laban **'add ieeh**?<br>عاَو ِز لـَبـَن قـَدّ ا ِيه؟ |
| **how much** is this bag? | ilshanTa di **bikaam**?<br>اِلشـَنطـَة دي بـِكاَم؟ |
| **why** is he going? | huwwa raayih **leeh**?<br>هـُوّ َرا يـِح ليه؟ |

Here are some common answers to questions

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| How much? This much | <u>'add</u> ieeh? '<u>add</u> ki<u>dah</u><br>قَدّ اِيه؟ قَدّ كِدَه |
| Why? Because. | <u>leeh</u>? Aala<u>shaan</u><br>ليه؟ عَلَشاَن |
| Why? It's like that | <u>leeh</u>? ki<u>dah</u><br>ليه؟ كِدَه |
| Why? Better like this | <u>leeh</u>? 'ah<u>san</u> ki<u>dah</u><br>ليه؟ أحسَن كِدَه |
| Why? Why not? | <u>leeh</u>? leeh <u>laa</u>'?<br>ليه؟ ليه لاَء؟ |

To ask **how many** people or things, you should use **kaam** كاَم **before** the noun. To ask for a sequence or reference number (**what** or **which**, you put the **kaam** كاَم **after** the noun. In all of these cases, the noun is singular.

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| **How many** children do you have? | <u>A</u>andak **kaam** <u>walad</u>?<br>عَنَد كَ كاَم وَ لَدَ؟ |
| **How many** days will you stay? | hati<u>nizil</u> **kaam** <u>yoom</u>?<br>هَتِنِيزِل كاَم يوم؟ |
| **How many** guests tomorrow? | <u>kaam</u> zi<u>boon</u> buk<u>rah</u>?<br>كاَم زِبون بِكرَه؟ |
| **What** is your telephone number? | nim<u>ritak</u> **kaam?**<br>نِمرِتَك كاَم؟ |
| **What** time is it? | il<u>saa</u>Aa **kaam?**<br>الِساَ عَة كاَم؟ |
| **What** time is the meeting? | il'igti<u>maa</u>A il<u>saa</u>Aa **kaam?**<br>الإجتِماَ عَ الِساَ عَة كاَ م؟ |
| **What** is your apartment number? | sha"itak ra'am **kaam?**<br>شَقّـِّتَك رَقَم كاَ م؟ |
| **Which** is your apartment? | sha"itak **'an<u>hw</u>?**<br>شَقّـِّتَك أنهو؟ |
| **Which** floor do you want? | <u>A</u>aayiz door **kaam?**<br>عاَيِز دور كاَ م؟ |

## Pronoun questions

In English, it is possible to make a question by swapping the subject and verb. For example,

**he is** English
**is he** English?

The equivalent in Egyptian arabic is to put the query pronoun **hu<u>wwa</u>** هـُوّ or, less frequently, **hall** هـَلّ at the start of the sentence. You should think of this as "Is it so that..."

**hu<u>wwa</u>** 'in<u>ta</u> gaai ma<u>A</u>naa?
هـُوّ إنت َجاَ ي مـَعـَنَا؟
**Is it so, that** you are coming with us?

hall 'inta raaDi Aan 'afaAelak?

هـَـّل إنت َ را َضي عـَـن أفـَعلـَك؟

**Are you** satisfied with your actions?

## Inflection

In English, you can make a statement by saying **she is coming.** or turn it into a question, **she is coming?** just by the tone of your voice: the pitch rises a little at the end of the sentence to indicate a question. You can do exactly the same thing in Arabic. **hiya gayya** هـِـي َ جـَـيِّـَة is a statement and **hiya gayya?** هـِـي َ جـَـيِّـَة؟, with a rising pitch on the last syllable, is a question.

# Indirect questions (whether)

An indirect question is made up of two clauses: the first clause is often a courtesy clause "Could you possibly..." and the second clause is the real question. Here are some examples of direct and indirect questions.

| Direct | Indirect |
|--------|----------|
| where is the station? | Can you tell me where the station is? |
| what is the time? | Do you know what the time is? |
| is he coming? | Do you know whether he is coming? |

The query-word **whether** is used only in indirect questions: in Egyptian, **'iza** إذا َ is used for this.

| English | Egyptian |
|---------|----------|
| Could I have a lemon juice? | mumkin Aaseer laymoon?<br>مـُمكـِن عـَسير لـَيمون؟ |
| Can you tell me **where** the station is? | mumkin ti'uli **feen** ilmahaTTa?<br>مـُمكـِن تـِقـُلي **فين** ا لمـَحـَطّـِيـَة؟ |
| Do you know **what** the time is? | 'inta Aaarif ilsaaAa **kaam**?<br>إنت َ عا َر ِف ا لِسا َعـَة كا َم؟ |
| Do you know **whether** he is coming? | 'inta Aaarif **'iza** huwwa gayy?<br>إنت َ عا َر ِف إذا َ هـُوّ َ جـَـيي؟ |

# Confirmation questions

If you are pretty sure about something but want to check, you can use one of the following methods:

| English | Arabic |
|---------|--------|
| he's coming, **isn't** he? | huwwa **mish** gaay?<br>هـُوّ َ مـِش جا َي؟ |
| he's coming, **isn't that so?** | huwwa gaay, **mish kidah?**<br>هـُوّ َ جا َي، مـِش كـِد َه؟ |
| he's coming, **right?** | huwwa gaay, **Sahh?**<br>هـُوّ َ جا َي، صـِحّ؟ |

## Suggestions

In English, you can suggest something by saying "Why don't you..." in Egyptian, you can get the same effect by putting **mi-** مـِ on the front of a verb. For example:

**ma__tsally-ny shuwayao**
**Why don't you** entertain me for a while?

## Rhetorical questions

A rhetorical question is used to make a point: you don't expect an answer. Any of the above methods can be used to ask rhetorical questions.

| English | Arabic |
|---|---|
| **wouldn't** it be better if you(m) shut up? | **mish** tis<u>kut</u> 'ah<u>san</u>?<br>مـِش تـِسكـُت أحسـَن؟ |
| you(m) must be kidding! | bit<u>h</u>azzar, **mish kidah**?<br>بـِتهـَزّ َر، مـِش كـِد َه؟ |
| you(m) are an idiot, **right**? | 'inta 'ah<u>bal</u>, **Sahh**?<br>إنت َ أهبـَل، صـَحّ؟ |

## Adverbal and adjectival questions

In English, it is possible to ask a question using **how** followed by an adjective or adverb. There is no similar construction in Egyptian, so it is necessary to re-phrase the question, usually so that you are asking for a number. Here are some examples:

| English | re-phrased | Egyptian |
|---|---|---|
| How fast were you driving? | **how many** kilometers an hour.. | **kaam** keeloo<u>mitr</u> fi il<u>saaAa</u><br>كا َم كيلومـِتر في ا ِلسا َعـَة |
| How often do you go to the gym? | **how many** times a week... | **kaam** mar<u>ra</u> fi il'us<u>b</u>waA...<br>كا َم مـَرّ َة في ا ِلأ ُسبو َع,,, |
| How hot is the oven? | what is the temperature? | ilhar<u>raara</u> **kaam**<br>اِلحـَر ّا َر َة كا َم |
| How difficult was the exam? | was the exam difficult | hu<u>ww</u>a il'imti<u>haan</u> kaan <u>SaAb</u>?<br>هـُوّ َ ا ِلإمتـِحا َن كا َن صـَعب؟ |

# Which one?

This section explains how to specify which of several things we are interested in, or talking about.

## Definite article

To talk about a particular man, we say 'the man' in English. In arabic, we attach **il-** ‍ﻟ‍ ﺍ to the front of the noun.

<div align="center">

**the** man is reading his book
**iil**-raagil biyiqraac kitaab-uh

</div>

See articles for more information.

## Indefinite article

If we don't want to refer to any man in particular, we say '**a** man' in English. There is no equivalent of **a** in arabic, you just use the noun on its own.

<div align="center">

I want **a dog**
aacnaa Aaayiz **kalb**

</div>

If you want to make it clear that you are talking about just one, you can use the word waaHid- one. When used for emphasis like this, you place it *after* the noun.

<div align="center">

I want (just) **one** dog

aacnaa Aaayiz kalb **waaHid**

</div>

You also use it with nationalities to indicate that you are talking about a person, rather than (for example) the language.

<div align="center">

an English man (or woman)
**waaHid** iingilyzy
**waaHdao** iingilyziyao

</div>

## Adjectives

In both English an Egyptian, you can use an adjective to specify which one you are interested in: you simply put **the** - **il-** ‍ﻟ‍ ﺍ in front of the adjective. Note that, in Egyptian, the noun still retains its **il-** ‍ﻟ‍ ﺍ prefix.

|  | English | Egyptian |
|---|---|---|
| describe | I want a red ball | Aaayiz koora hamra<br>عاَيـِز كور َة حـَمر َة |
| specify | I want **the** red ball | Aaayiz **il**koora **il**hamra<br>عاَيـِز ا ِلكور َة ا ِلحـَمر َة |
| specify | I have read **the** big book | 'ara't **il**kitab **il**kibeer<br>قـَرا َءت ا ِلكـِتـَب ا ِلكـِبير |

## Demonstrative adjectives

One particular type of adjective is a demonstrative adjective. These are almost the same as the demonstrative pronouns.

this man

iil-raagil **dah**

The demonstrative adjectives are:

| English | Arabic |
|---|---|
| this (man) | ilraagil dah<br>اِلرا َجـِل د َه |
| this (thing, m) | ilkitaab dah<br>اِلكـِتا َب د َه |
| this (thing, f) | ilhaga dah<br>اِلهـَجـَة د َه |
| this (woman) | ilsitt di<br>اِلسـِتّ دي |
| these (men) | ilragaala dool<br>اِلر َجا َلا َ دول |
| these (men) nearer | ilragaala di<br>اِلر َجا َلا َ دي |
| these (women) | ilsittaat dool<br>اِلسـِتّيا َت دول |
| these (things,m) | ilkutoob di<br>اِلكـُتوب دي |
| these (things,f) | ilhagaat di<br>اِلهـَجا َت دي |
| over there (m) | 'ahw<br>أهو |
| over there [f] | 'ahi<br>أهي |
| over there (pl) | 'ahoom<br>أهوم |

# Comparatives

You can use a comparative in the same was as an adjective to specify which one you mean:

| English | Egyptian |
|---|---|
| mohammed is the **tallest** student | muhammad **'aTwal** Taalib<br>مـُحـَمّـَد أطو َل طا َلـِب |
| he is the **youngest** boy | huwwa **'aSGar** walad<br>هـُو َّ أصغـَر و َلـَد |
| the **tallest** student is 1m90 | ilTaalib **il'aTwal** Toolooh mitr 1 wa 90 santi<br>اِلطا َلـِب ا ِلأطو َل طولوه مـِتر ١ و َ ٩٠ سـَنتي |
| the **most expensive** drink is 20 pounds | ilmashrab **il'aGla** 20 gineeh<br>اِلمـَشر َب ا ِلأغلى ٢٠ جـِنِيه |
| this is the **prettiest** dress in the shop | dih **'ahla** fustaan fi ilmahal |

| | دِه أَحلى فُـُستاَن في ا لِمـَحـَل |
|---|---|
| it was the **best** day in my life | kaan **'ahsan** yoom fi hayaati<br>كاَن أَحسـَّن يوم في حـَيـاَ تي |

# Time

Time can be expressed in several different ways:

- units of time - days, weeks etc
- parts of the day - morning/afternoon
- time of day - 6.30
- relative time (before/after) - today/yesterday etc
- days of the week
- dates

## Units of time

| English | Egyptian | | Plural | |
|---------|----------|---|--------|---|
| moment | lahZa | لَـحظـَة | lahZaat | لَـحظا َت |
| second | thanya | ثا َنيـَة | thawaani | ثـَوا َني |
| minute | di'ee'a | دِقيقـَة | da'aayi' | دَقا َيـِق |
| hour | saaAa | سا َعـَة | saAaat | سا َعا َت |
| day | yoom | يوم | 'ayaam | أيَا َم |
| week | 'usbooA | أُسبوع | 'asaabiyA | أسا َبـِيع |
| month | shahr | شـَهر | shuhoor | شـُهور |
| year | sana | سـَنـَة | sineen | سـِنين |
| lifetime | Aumr | عـُمر | 'aAmaar | أعما َر |

## Parts of the day

The main events in the day are sunrise and sunset. Midnight, noon and the six prayer times can also be used to specify an approximate time.

| English | Egyptian | |
|---------|----------|---|
| last prayers till dawn | illeel | ا لـّيـِل |
| dawn until sunset | ilSubh | اِلصـُبح |
| after sunset | masa' | مـَسا َء |
| dawn | fagr | فـَجر |
| noon | ilDuhr | اِلضـُهر |
| after noon | baAd ilDuhr | بـَعدا ِلضـُهر |
| sunset | ilmaGrib | اِلمـَغرِب |
| midnight | nuS illeel | نـُص ا لـّيـِل |

## Time of day

In English, it is normal to use half and quarter hours to describe time. In addition, in Egyptian, thirds are used. Here is a list of the words that can be used:

| English | Egyptian |
|---------|----------|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| half | <u>nuS</u> | نـُـص |
| a third | <u>tilt</u> | تـِـلت |
| a quarter | <u>rubA</u> | رُبع |
| and | <u>wa</u> | وَ |
| less | <u>'ila</u> | إلاّ |

Here are all the times at five minute intervals:

| English | Egyptian | |
|---|---|---|
| seven o'clock | <u>sabAa</u> | سـَـبعَة |
| five past seven past | <u>sabAa wa Kamsa</u> | سـَـبعَة وَ خـَـمسـَـة |
| ten past seven | <u>sabAa wa Aashara</u> | سـَـبعَة وَ عـَـشـَـرَة |
| quarter past seven | <u>sabAa wa rubA</u> | سـَـبعَة وَ رُبع |
| twenty past seven | <u>sabAa wa tilt</u> | سـَـبعَة وَ تـِـلت |
| twenty five past seven | <u>sabAa wa nuS 'ila Kamsa</u> | سـَـبعَة وَ نـُـص إلاّ خـَـمسـَـة |
| half past seven | <u>sabAa wa nuS</u> | سـَـبعَة وَ نـُـص |
| twenty-five to eight | <u>sabAa wa nuS wa Kamsa</u> | سـَـبعَة وَ نـُـص وَ خـَـمسـَـة |
| twenty to eight | <u>tamanya 'ila tilt</u> | تـَـمـَـانيـَـة إلاّ تـِـلت |
| quarter to eight | <u>tamanya 'ila rubaA</u> | تـَـمـَـانيـَـة إلاّ رُبـَـع |
| ten to eight | <u>tamanya 'ila Aashara</u> | تـَـمـَـانيـَـة إلاّ عـَـشـَـرَة |
| five to eight | <u>tamanya 'ila Kamsa</u> | تـَـمـَـانيـَـة إلاّ خـَـمسـَـة |

## Relative time

| English | Arabic | |
|---|---|---|
| the day before yesterday | <u>'awil 'imbaarih</u> | أوِل إمبا رِح |
| yesterday | <u>'imbaarih</u> | إمبا رِح |
| today | <u>ilnaharda</u> | الـنـَـهـَـا رد َة |
| tomorrow | <u>bukrah</u> | بـُـكرَه |
| the day after tomorrow | <u>baAd bukrah</u> | بـَـعد بـُـكرَه |

| English | Arabic | |
|---|---|---|
| last week | <u>iloosbwaA 'ili faat</u> | الـِلا سُبوَع إلي فا ت |
| this week | <u>iloosbwaA dih</u> | الـِلا سُبوَع د ِه |
| next week | <u>iloosbwaA 'ili gaai</u> | الـِلا سُبوَع إلي جا َي |

| English | Arabic | |
|---|---|---|
| now | <u>dilwa'ti</u> | دِلوَقتي |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| soon | baAd shuwayao | |
| later | baAdeen | بـَعدين |
| not yet | lissah | لـِسّـَـه |
| early | badri | بـَدري |
| late (at night) | waKri | وَخري |

## Days of week

| English | Arabic | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday | yoom ilaaahad | يوم اِلا َحـَد |
| Monday | yoom il'ithneen | يوم اِلإثنين |
| Tuesday | yoom iltalaat | يوم اِلتـَلا َت |
| Wednesday | yoom il'arbaAa | يوم اِلأربـَعَ |
| Thursday | yoom ilKamees | يوم اِلخـَميس |
| Friday | yoom ilgumaAaة | يوم اِلجـُمـَعَة |
| Saturday | yoom ilsabt | يوم اِلسـَبت |

## Dates

Dates are normally written with day as a number, month as a word and year as a number, for example:

25th January 2011
25 yanaeyir 2011
٢٥ يا َنا َيـِر ٢٠١١

The month names are:

| English | Arabic | |
|---|---|---|
| January | yanaeyir | يا َنا َيـِر |
| February | fibraayir | فـِيرا َيـِر |
| March | maeris | ما َرِس |
| April | 'abreel | أبريل |
| May | mayw | ما َيو |
| June | yooneew | يونيو |
| July | yooleew | يولبو |
| August | 'aGustTus | أغـُستطـُس |
| September | sibtimbir | سـِيتـِمبـِر |
| October | 'uktoobar | أُكتوبـَر |
| November | noovimbir | نوفـِمبـِر |
| December | deesimbir | ديسـِمبـِر |

# Arabic Writing

This describes the arabic alphabet, and how it can be written using roman letters.

Please remember that Egyptian Arabic is an oral language. When people are asked to write it, some write in Modern Standard Arabic and then pronounce it the Egyptian way, others write it as an Egyptian would say it. As a result, there may some variation in the way things are spelt. For example, many verbs end in alif-layena **a** ى, but many people write it as a regular alif **a** اَ.

## Arabic script

There are 28 basic letters in Egyptian arabic, and about a dozen modifiers.

<div dir="rtl">ابنتدذجحخرزسشصضطظعغفقكلمنهوي</div>

Writing goes from right to left, and the majority of arabic letters join onto the following letter and so there are therefore four forms of each letter: solitary, initial, middle and final. For the six letters that do not join, there are just two forms- solitary and final.

| position | normal letter | non-joining letter |
|----------|---------------|--------------------|
| solitary | ج | د |
| initial | جـ | |
| middle | ـجـ | |
| final | ـج | ـد |

The three short vowels **a** َ, **i** ِ and **u** ُ and shadda ّ, which doubles the length of a consonant, are collectively called **tash<u>keel</u>** تَـشْكِيل or vowellization. Tashkyl is not normally used in written arabic apart from in the Quran. If they are used, they are written above a consonant but pronounced after it: for the convenience of non-arabic readers, I have included the tashkyl, but written it after the consonant.

See the Arabic Alphabet section for full information about each arabic letter, including the european letters used.

# Arabic Alphabet

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ‍َ | a | /æ/ | fatha | | ص | S | /sˤ/ | saad |
| ‍ِ | i | /ɪ/ | kasra | | ض | D | /dˤ/ | daad |
| ‍ُ | u | /ʊ/ | damma | | ط | T | /tˤ/ | taa |
| ‍ّ | | // | shadda | | ظ | Z | /z/ | zaa |
| أ | 'a | /ʔæ/ | alif-hamza above | | ع | A | /ʕ/ | ain |
| إ | 'i | /ʔɪ/ | alif-hamza below | | غ | G | /ɣ/ | ghin |
| أ | 'u | /ʔʊ/ | alif-damma | | ف | f | /f/ | fa |
| ا | a | /æ/ | alif-fatha | | ق | ' | /ʔ/ | qaf |
| ا | i | /ɪ/ | alif-kasra | | ڤ | v | /v/ | vee |
| آ | 'e | /ʔeə/ | alif-madda | | ك | k | /k/ | kef |
| ب | b | /b/ | bee | | ل | l | /l/ | lem |
| ت | t | /t/ | tee | | م | m | /m/ | mym |
| ث | th | /θ/ | thee | | ن | n | /n/ | nun |
| د | d | /d/ | del | | ‍ً | n | /n/ | fathatan |
| ذ | z | /z/ | dhel | | ه | h | /h/ | hey |
| ج | g | /g/ | gyn | | ة | t | /t/ | tee-marbuta |
| ح | h | /ħ/ | ha | | و | w | /w/ | wow |
| خ | K | /x/ | kha | | ؤ | w' | /ʊʔ/ | wow-hamza |
| چ | j | /dʒ/ | jyn | | ي | i | /ɪ/ | yeh |
| س | s | /s/ | syn | | ئ | ' | /ʔ/ | yeh-hamza |
| ش | sh | /ʃ/ | shyn | | ى | a | /æ/ | alif-layena |
| ر | r | /r/ | reh | | ء | ' | /ʔ/ | hamza |
| ز | z | /z/ | zyn | | | | | |

## ‍َ fatha

Fatha is the short vowel corresponding to **a**. It is normally written above a consonant and pronounced after it. For ease of reading, this dictionary puts short vowels after the consonant. Short vowels are normally omitted except in the quran.

**Example words**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | a | maTaar | مَطَار |
| IPA Phonetic: | /æ/ | shahiyya | شَهِييَة |
| Tashkyl: | ‍َ | Aammiyya | عاَمِّييَة |
| | | 'itkasaf | إتكَسَف |
| | | fattahaet | فَتّاَ حاَت |

## ‍ِ kasra

Kasra is the short vowel corresponding to **i**. It is normally written above a consonant and pronounced after it. For ease of reading, this dictionary puts short vowels after the consonant. Short vowels are normally omitted except in the quran.

| | | **Example words** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | i | g<u>ih</u> | جِـه |
| IPA Phonetic: | /ɪ/ | Ai<u>r</u>wa | عِـروَة |
| Tashkyl: | ِ | <u>bi</u>nt | بِـنت |
| | | muzdahi<u>meen</u> | مُـزدَحِـمِين |
| | | <u>yi</u>'dar | يِـقدَر |

## ُ damma

Damma is the short vowel corresponding to **u**. It is normally written above a consonant and pronounced after it. For ease of reading, this dictionary puts short vowels after the consonant. Short vowels are normally omitted except in the quran.

| | | **Example words** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | u | mu<u>tae</u>n | مُـتْـاَن |
| IPA Phonetic: | /ʊ/ | <u>nuk</u>ta | نُـكتَـة |
| Tashkyl: | ُ | <u>ku</u>war | كُـوَر |
| | | zu'<u>ae</u>' | زُـقْـاَق |
| | | buroo<u>ku</u>li | بُـروكُـلِـي |

## ّ shadda

Shadda is written above a consonant and doubles the consonant. Unlike in english, double consonants are pronounced, so if you take katab and put a shadda above the t, it will be pronounced kat-tab, with one t and the end of the first syllable and one t at the beginning of the next syllable. Shadda is often omitted in written arabic. Double-lem and double-yeh are often written as two separate letters, rather than one with a shadda.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | | |
| IPA Phonetic: | // | **Example words** |
| Tashkyl: | ّ | |

## أ alif-hamza above

Alif with a hamza above is used mainly at the beginning of words. It represents a gluttal stop followed by fatha - a short **a**. Strictly speaking, it should be written with both a hamza and a fatha.

| | | **Example words** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | 'a | 'a<u>dae</u>t | أداَة |
| IPA Phonetic: | /ʔæ/ | 'ar<u>yae</u>f | أريـاَف |
| Join left: | no | 'aG<u>bi</u>ya' | أغبِيـاَء |
| Sun letter: | no | 'a<u>mae</u>n | أماَن |
| Solitary: | أ | 'a'<u>faa</u>S | أقفاَص |
| Final: | ـأ | | |

## إ alif-hamza below

Alif with a hamza below is used only at the beginning of words. It represents a gluttal stop followed by kasra - a short **i**. Strictly speaking, it should be written with both a hamza and a kasra.
Alif-hamza below is used at the beginning of the perfect of many derived verbs, which are formed by adding a prefix (it-, in-, ist- and i?t-) to a base verb. These derived verbs often have a passive (be ...ed) or reflexive (oneself, each other) meaning.

| Pronounced: | 'i | **Example words** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| IPA Phonetic: | /ʔɪ/ | 'ingil<u>ti</u>ra | إنجِلتِـراَ |
| Join left: | no | 'iKtiyaeri<u>y</u>ya | إختِياَرِيـَة |
| Sun letter: | no | '<u>in</u>than | إنثَـن |
| Solitary: | إ | 'it<u>A</u>adda | إتعَدّى |
| Final: | ـإ | 'if<u>t</u>araD | إفتَـرَض |

## أُ alif-damma

Alif with a damma above is used only at the beginning of words. It represents a gluttal stop followed by damma - a short **u**. Strictly speaking, it should be written with both a hamza and a damma.

| Pronounced: | 'u | **Example words** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| IPA Phonetic: | /ʔʊ/ | '<u>uwa</u>D | أوَض |
| Join left: | no | 'uwtoomatee<u>kya</u> | أوتوماَتيكيَة |
| Sun letter: | no | 'uK<u>ra</u> | أخرى |
| Solitary: | أ | 'ug<u>ra</u> | أجرَة |
| Final: | ـأ | 'um<u>mi</u> | أمّي |

## اَ alif-fatha

Alif with a fatha is used only in the middle and at the end of words. It is usually pronounced either as **ae** as in aeroplane, or as **ar** as in hard: these two forms are represented as **ae** and **aa** respectively in transliterated arabic. When it is followed by two consonants in a row or a consonant and a long vowel, it is shortened to a short **a**.
When it follows a lem, the two letters are joined together and written لا. At the end of the 'we' and 'they' form of pronouns and verbs, wow-alif is pronounced as **oo**.

| Pronounced: | a | **Example words** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| IPA Phonetic: | /æ/ | <u>raQ</u>QaS | راَقّـص |
| Join left: | no | <u>mar</u>ka | ماَركَة |
| Sun letter: | no | <u>d</u>awa' | دَواَء |
| Solitary: | اَ | Say<u>meen</u> | صاَيمِين |
| Final: | ـاَ | see<u>ni</u>ma | سينِماَ |

## اِ alif-kasra

Alif-kasra is used only in ال il, the prefix meaning 'the'. As the kasra is never actually written, it is not clear whether 'the' should be pronounced il, el, or al. As a result, there are regional differences in pronunciation. In the dictionary, we have standardized on il, to avoid confusion.

| Pronounced: | i | **Example words** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| IPA Phonetic: | /ɪ/ | <u>bil</u>Aaks | بِالعَكس |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Join left: | no | ilnaSr | الِنَّصَر |
| Sun letter: | no | ilkileeteen | الِكِليتين |
| Solitary: | اِ | ilrabeeA | الِرَبيع |
| Final: | ـاِ | ilmanTaQ | الِمَنطَق |

## آ alif-madda

Alif-madda is used only at the beginning of words. It is pronounced as a gluttal stop followed by **ee** as in feel.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | 'e | **Example words** |
| IPA Phonetic: | /ʔeə/ | 'eA'aed    آعقَاد |
| Join left: | no | 'emmim    آمِّم |
| Sun letter: | no | 'emina    آمِنَة |
| Solitary: | آ | 'el    آل |
| Final: | ـآ | 'e'af    آقَف |

## ب bee

Bee is pronounced as **b**.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | b | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /b/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | yes | been    بين |
| Sun letter: | no | giraeb    جِراَب |
| Solitary: | ب | burGul    بُرغُل |
| Initial: | بـ | yiKabbi    يِخَبّي |
| Medial: | ـبـ | Auyoob    عُيوب |
| Final: | ـب | |

## ت tee

Tee is pronounced as **t**.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | t | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /t/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | yes | santeemitraet    ـَنتيمِتراَت |
| Sun letter: | yes | mustaAideen    مُستَعِدين |
| Solitary: | ت | 'i'taSad    إقتَصَد |
| Initial: | تـ | taswees    تَسويس |
| Medial: | ـتـ | tiliGraaf    تِليغراَف |
| Final: | ـت | |

## ث thee

Thee is pronounced as voiced **th** as in thumb, as **t**. You may also hear **s** or unvoiced **th** as in thin: these may be caused by speech impediments.

| | | **Example words** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | th | thiQa | ثِقَة |
| IPA Phonetic: | /θ/ | mumaththil | مُمَثِّل |
| Join left: | yes | hadeeth | حَدِيث |
| Sun letter: | yes | 'aththar | أثَّر |
| Solitary: | ث | thaenawiyya | ثاَنَوِيَة |
| Initial: | ثـ | | |
| Medial: | ـثـ | | |
| Final: | ـث | | |

## د del

Del is pronounced as **d**.

| | | **Example words** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | d | yitmaddid | يِتمَدِّد |
| IPA Phonetic: | /d/ | muKaddaraat | مُخَدَّراَت |
| Join left: | no | 'idir | قِدِر |
| Sun letter: | yes | yuhSud | يُحصِد |
| Solitary: | د | dibb | دِبّ |
| Final: | ـد | | |

## ذ dhel

Dhel is pronounced as **z**.

| | | **Example words** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | z | kizb | كِذب |
| IPA Phonetic: | /z/ | bizr | بِذر |
| Join left: | no | mazoon | مَذون |
| Sun letter: | yes | 'uzeenaan | أذيناَن |
| Solitary: | ذ | Aazir | عَذِر |
| Final: | ـذ | | |

## ج gyn

In Egypt, gyn is pronounced as **g** as in gold. In most of the arab world it is pronounced as **j** as in jeans.

| | | **Example words** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | g | fagawaet | فَجاَواَت |
| IPA Phonetic: | /g/ | bustangi | بُستَنجِى |
| Join left: | yes | gubana' | جُبَناَء |
| Sun letter: | no | gawaeyiz | جَواَيِز |
| Solitary: | ج | mugAAad | مُجعِّد |
| Initial: | جـ | | |
| Medial: | ـجـ | | |
| Final: | ـج | | |

## ح ha

Ha is an unvoiced but quite audible **h** sound: there is no equivalent in English.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | h | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /ħ/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | yes | ha̱Sad     حَصَّدَ |
| Sun letter: | no | ha̱gaet     حَاجَات |
| Solitary: | ح | yitshi̱hin     بِتشِيحِين |
| Initial: | ﺣ | miha̱mmaS     مِحَمَّص |
| Medial: | ﺤ | hurr     حُرّ |
| Final: | ﺢ | |

## خ kha

Kha is an rolled alveolar h like **ch** in loch, but a little stronger: imagine clearing your throat to make this sound.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | K | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /x/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | yes | maKSooSeen     مَخصوصين |
| Sun letter: | no | Karrab     خَرَّب |
| Solitary: | خ | Kardal     خَردَل |
| Initial: | ﺧ | Kazna     خَزنَة |
| Medial: | ﺨ | 'eKir     آخِير |
| Final: | ﺦ | |

## چ jyn

Jyn is borrowed from Farsi to represent the **j** sound in imported words like 'agenda'.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | j | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /dʒ/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | yes | jeeleehaet     چِيلِيهاَت |
| Sun letter: | no | kajwal     كَـچوَل |
| Solitary: | چ | jeebaet     چِباَت |
| Initial: | ﭼ | beej     بيچ |
| Medial: | ـﭽـ | jeeleehaet     چِيلِيهاَت |
| Final: | ـﭻ | |

## س syn

Syn is an **s** sound. Many Egyptians, even educated ones, do not distinguish clearly between this and shyn.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | s | **Example words** |
| IPA Phonetic: | /s/ | mifallis     مِفَلِّس |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Join left: | yes | | |
| Sun letter: | yes | nusKa | نُسخَة |
| Solitary: | س | yisibb | يِسِبّ |
| Initial: | سـ | yiQtabis | يِقتَبِس |
| Medial: | ـسـ | maseehiyeen | مَسيحِيين |
| Final: | ـس | | |

## ش shyn

Shyn is a **sh**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | sh | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /ʃ/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | yes | shurafa' ﺷُـرَفَاء |
| Sun letter: | yes | shaeAir ﺷﺎَﻋِـير |
| Solitary: | ش | mishwaar مِـﺷﻮاَر |
| Initial: | شـ | shuraaAa ﺷُـراَﻋَـة |
| Medial: | ـشـ | shar'i ﺷَـرﻗﻲ |
| Final: | ـش | |

## ر reh

Reh is an **r** sound.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | r | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /r/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | no | maraayil مَـراَﻳِـل |
| Sun letter: | yes | kuloor ﻛُـﻠُﻮر |
| Solitary: | ر | raggaA رَﺟّـَﻊ |
| Final: | ـر | gazar ﺟَـزَر |
| | | taTweer تَـطﻮير |

## ز zyn

Zyn is a **z** sound.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | z | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /z/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | no | bizz ﺑِـزّ |
| Sun letter: | yes | Aizba ﻋِـزﺑَـة |
| Solitary: | ز | nazaeha نَـزاَﻫَـة |
| Final: | ـز | mitnarfiz مِـتنَـرﻓِـز |
| | | naezil ناَزِل |

## ص saad

Saad is an alveolar **s**. It affects the following short vowel, making it heavier.

| Pronounced: | S |
|---|---|
| IPA Phonetic: | /sˤ/ |
| Join left: | yes |
| Sun letter: | yes |
| Solitary: | ص |
| Initial: | صـ |
| Medial: | ـصـ |
| Final: | ـص |

**Example words**

| | |
|---|---|
| yi<u>S</u>affi | بـيـصـفّـي |
| <u>S</u>ammim | صـمّـم |
| yub<u>S</u>uQ | يـُبـصـُق |
| hamma<u>S</u> | حـمّـص |
| ma<u>S</u>doom | مـصدوم |

## ض daad

Daad is an alveolar **d**. It affects the following short vowel, making it heavier.

| Pronounced: | D |
|---|---|
| IPA Phonetic: | /dˤ/ |
| Join left: | yes |
| Sun letter: | yes |
| Solitary: | ض |
| Initial: | ضـ |
| Medial: | ـضـ |
| Final: | ـض |

**Example words**

| | |
|---|---|
| haa<u>D</u>ir | حاضـير |
| taw<u>D</u>eeb | تـوضيب |
| yih<u>D</u>im | يـهضـيم |
| yif<u>D</u>al | يـفضـَل |
| 'ab<u>D</u> | قـَبـض |

## ط taa

Taa is an alveolar **t**. It affects the following short vowel, making it heavier.

| Pronounced: | T |
|---|---|
| IPA Phonetic: | /tˤ/ |
| Join left: | yes |
| Sun letter: | yes |
| Solitary: | ط |
| Initial: | طـ |
| Medial: | ـطـ |
| Final: | ـط |

**Example words**

| | |
|---|---|
| la<u>T</u>sha | لـَطشـَة |
| ba<u>TT</u>al | بـَطّـل |
| mi'a<u>TT</u>aA | مـيـقـَطّـع |
| yi<u>T</u>rah | يـيطـرَح |
| <u>T</u>ur'<u>aat</u> | طـُـرقاَت |

## ظ zaa

Zaa is an alveolar **z**. It affects the following short vowel, making it heavier.

| Pronounced: | Z |
|---|---|
| IPA Phonetic: | /z/ |
| Join left: | yes |
| Sun letter: | yes |
| Solitary: | ظ |

**Example words**

| | |
|---|---|
| laahi<u>Z</u> | لاحـيظ |
| lah<u>Z</u>a | لـَحظـَة |
| ma<u>Z</u>loom | مـظلوم |
| <u>Z</u>aahi<u>reen</u> | ظاهـيـرين |

| | |
|---|---|
| Initial: | ﻇ |
| Medial: | ﻈ |
| Final: | ﻆ |

yibawwaZ   ﺑﻳﻳﻮّﻆ

## ع ain

Ain is an alveolar **a**. This letter makes more problems for Europeans than any other: it sounds close to alif, and you can easily confuse people if you do not say it correctly. Ain is treated as a consonant for the purposes of pronunciation rules.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pronounced: | A |
| IPA Phonetic: | /ʕ/ |
| Join left: | yes |
| Sun letter: | no |
| Solitary: | ع |
| Initial: | ﻋ |
| Medial: | ﻌ |
| Final: | ﻊ |

**Example words**

Ainwaen   عِنوٱَن
taAaewun   تَعاَوُْن
TallaA   طَلـّـﻊ
Aurg   عُْرﺝ
Aawwaema   عَوّاَ مَة

## غ ghin

Ghin is an alveolar **g**.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pronounced: | G |
| IPA Phonetic: | /ɣ/ |
| Join left: | yes |
| Sun letter: | no |
| Solitary: | غ |
| Initial: | ﻏ |
| Medial: | ﻐ |
| Final: | ﻎ |

**Example words**

Gaasil   غاَسِل
taGleef   تَغليف
'itGaaZ   إنغاَﻅ
shaGGal   شَغّـل
raGba   رَغبَة

## ف fa

Fa is an **f** sound.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pronounced: | f |
| IPA Phonetic: | /f/ |
| Join left: | yes |
| Sun letter: | no |
| Solitary: | ف |
| Initial: | ﻓ |
| Medial: | ﻔ |
| Final: | ﻒ |

**Example words**

mifallis   مِفَلّـِس
yiKawwif   يِخَوّـِف
Tafa   طَفَى
yishfa   يِشفى
'itnaffis   إتنَفّـِس

## ق qaf

Qaf is pronounced by Cairenes as either an alveolar **k** or as a gluttal stop. People from upper Egypt pronounce it as a **g**.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | ' | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /ʔ/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | yes | za"    زَقّ |
| Sun letter: | no | yit'aesim    يِتقاَسِم |
| Solitary: | ق | 'uTT    قُطّ |
| Initial: | ڧ | ta'aleed    تَقاَليد |
| Medial: | ڧ | wu'oof    وُقُوف |
| Final: | ـق | |

## ڤ vee

Vee is borrowed from Farsi to represent the **v** sound in imported words like 'villa'.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | v | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /v/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | yes | vayroos    ڤَيروس |
| Sun letter: | no | bravw    برَڤو |
| Solitary: | ڤ | noovimbir    نوڤِمبِر |
| Initial: | ڤـ | noovimbir    نوڤِمبِر |
| Medial: | ڤ | 'avookadw    أڤوكاَدو |
| Final: | ڤ | |

## ك kef

Kef is a **k** sound.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | k | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /k/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | yes | shakmaen    شَكماَن |
| Sun letter: | no | 'ablakaesh    أبلاَكاَش |
| Solitary: | ك | shakmanaet    شَكماَناَت |
| Initial: | كـ | 'ishtiraaki    إشتِراَكي |
| Medial: | ـكـ | karrar    كَرّر |
| Final: | ك | |

## ل lem

Lem is normally pronounced as **l**. If it is followed by an alif, the letters are joined together as لا. In the il prefix (which means 'the'), if it is attached to a noun that starts with a Sun letter, the lem is pronounced by replacing with a second sun-letter, so il-Dwr is pronounced iD-Dwr.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | l | **Example words** |
| IPA Phonetic: | /l/ | 'istiQlaal    إستِقلاَل |

| | |
|---|---|
| Join left: | yes |
| Sun letter: | yes |
| Solitary: | ل |
| Initial: | ﻟ |
| Medial: | ﻠ |
| Final: | ﻞ |

| muKalfa | مُخَالفَة |
|---|---|
| yiAaedil | يِعاَدِل |
| shayleen | شاَيلين |
| 'alwaeh | ألواَح |

## م mym

Mym is pronounced as **m**

| | |
|---|---|
| Pronounced: | m |
| IPA Phonetic: | /m/ |
| Join left: | yes |
| Sun letter: | no |
| Solitary: | م |
| Initial: | ﻣ |
| Medial: | ﻤ |
| Final: | ﻢ |

**Example words**

| mazza | مَزّة |
|---|---|
| mashbook | مَشبوك |
| mw'akkad | مؤكـّد |
| raham | رَحَم |
| yiAmil | يِعمِل |

## ن nun

Nun is pronounced as **n**

| | |
|---|---|
| Pronounced: | n |
| IPA Phonetic: | /n/ |
| Join left: | yes |
| Sun letter: | yes |
| Solitary: | ن |
| Initial: | ﻧ |
| Medial: | ﻨ |
| Final: | ﻦ |

**Example words**

| yist'azin | يِستأذِن |
|---|---|
| TanT | طَنط |
| fann | فَنّ |
| 'istithnae'iyeen | إستِثناَئِيين |
| 'istithnae'i | إستِثناَئي |

## ً fathatan

Fathatan is used only above an alif at the end of a word to represent an **n**

**Example words**

| salbiyyan | سَلبِياً |
|---|---|
| giddan | جِدّاً |
| 'ahlan | أهلاً |
| maAan | مَعاً |
| Aaedatan | عاَدَتاً |

| | |
|---|---|
| Pronounced: | n |
| IPA Phonetic: | /n/ |
| Tashkyl: | ً |

## ه hey

Hey is a very gentle, unrestricted, unvoiced **h** sound.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | h | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /h/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | yes | <u>sa</u>har سَـهَـر |
| Sun letter: | no | sah<u>la</u> سَـهْلَـة |
| Solitary: | ه | 'it<u>da</u>has إتدَهَـس |
| Initial: | هـ | '<u>ab</u>har أبهَـر |
| Medial: | ـهـ | <u>ha</u>ddid هَـدّـد |
| Final: | ـه | |

## ة tee-marbuta

Tee-marbuta is a hey with two dots above it. For many words, opinions vary about whether the word should be spelt with hey or tee-marbuta. In this dictionary, most feminine singular nouns are spelt with tee-marbuta at the end: The ending of these words is pronounced as either **-a** or **-ah** in the nominative form, and as **-it** in the genitive form.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | t | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /t/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | no | faraw<u>laa</u>ya فَـرا َولاَ يَـة |
| Sun letter: | no | wa<u>ra</u>'a و َر َقَة |
| Solitary: | ة | <u>fu</u>rsha فُرشَـة |
| Initial: | ةـ | ma<u>T</u>wa مَـطوَة |
| Medial: | ـةـ | <u>bii</u>lAa<u>f</u>ya بيا ِلعا َفيَـة |
| Final: | ـة | |

## و wow

Wow can be pronounced as **w** when it is next to at least one short vowel, and as **oo** when it is between two consonants. The 'we' and 'they' form of verbs and pronouns ends in wow-alif, which is pronounced **oo** as in 'too'.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | w | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /w/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | no | <u>yi</u>tooh بيتوه |
| Sun letter: | no | 'al<u>wae</u>n ألوا َن |
| Solitary: | و | <u>ward</u> و َرد |
| Final: | ـو | sha<u>ny</u>oor شَـنيور |
| | | <u>Su</u>hoon صُـحون |

## ؤ wow-hamza

wow-hamza is pronounce as **u** followed by a gluttal stop.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | w' | |
| IPA Phonetic: | /ئ?/ | **Example words** |
| Join left: | no | muw'aththi<u>reen</u> مُـوَثّـِرين |
| | | <u>ma</u>sw'ool مَـسؤول |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sun letter: | no | mayw's | مـَيؤس |
| Solitary: | ؤ | masw'liyaet | مـَسؤليـَات |
| Final: | ـؤ | mw'akkad | مؤكـِّد |

## ي yeh

yeh is pronounced as **y** when it is next to at least one short vowel, and as **ee** in 'feel' when it is between two consonants or a consonant and wow. At the end of a word, it is pronounced as **i**.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pronounced: | i |
| IPA Phonetic: | /ɪ/ |
| Join left: | yes |
| Sun letter: | no |
| Solitary: | ي |
| Initial: | ﻳ |
| Medial: | ـﻴ |
| Final: | ـي |

**Example words**

| | |
|---|---|
| yiSahhah | بـِيصَحـّح |
| yiwaZZaf | بـِيوَظـّف |
| yiliff | بـِيلِفّ |
| naymeen | نـاَيمين |
| tanSeer | تـَنصير |

## ئ yeh-hamza

yeh-hamza is a gluttal stop.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pronounced: | ' |
| IPA Phonetic: | /ʔ/ |
| Join left: | yes |
| Sun letter: | no |
| Solitary: | ئ |
| Medial: | ـئـ |

**Example words**

| | |
|---|---|
| gar' | جاَرئ |
| r'aesi | رئاَسي |
| la'eem | لـَئيم |
| Aashwae'iyaat | عـَشواَئيـاَت |
| zi'b | ذِئب |

## ى alif-layena

alif-layena is used at the end of words as an **a** sound. Verbs whose perfect ends with alif-layena normally have an imperfect that ends with a yeh.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pronounced: | a |
| IPA Phonetic: | /æ/ |
| Join left: | no |
| Sun letter: | no |
| Solitary: | ى |
| Final: | ـى |

**Example words**

| | |
|---|---|
| 'ewa | آوى |
| yifDa | بـِيفضى |
| yiGla | بـِيغلى |
| mada | مـَدى |
| yitabanna | بـِيتـَبـَنـّى |

## ء hamza

Hamza is pronounced as a gluttal stop. It appears occasionally as a full-size letter at the end of a word, and more frequently as a small symbol above or below alif, and above wow and yeh.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pronounced: | ' | | **Example words** |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| IPA Phonetic: | /ʔ/ | nubaha' | نْيَهَاَء |
| Join left: | no | shuAra' | شْعراَء |
| Sun letter: | no | sarra' | سَراَّء |
| Solitary: | ء | 'athna' | أثناَء |
| | | 'ana' | أنَء |

## Pronunciation rules

### Stress

In the pronounced form, the syllable that is stressed is underlined.

In most words, the second to last syllable is usually stressed.

'if<u>ta</u>kar إفتَـكـَر
<u>ku</u>tub كـُتـُب
mu<u>da</u>Kan مـُد َخـَن

The stress moves to the last syllable if it contains a long vowel (alif, wow, yeh) or ends with a double consonant. Remember that the letter AIN is treated as a consonant.

taA<u>baan</u> تـَعبا َن
maf<u>tooh</u> مـَفتوح
yi<u>du</u>" يـِد ُق ّ

This means that the stress will move if suffixes are added to a word.

### Feminine endings

When a word ends in _aaCiC (where C is any consonant) has a feminine ending attached, the i disappears and the aa is pronounced as an a.

<u>wa</u>hda وا َحد َة -> wa<u>a</u>hid وا َحـِد

### Elision

If a word ends with a vowel and the first vowel of the next word is either an i or a u, the words are run together (elided) and the i or u omitted.

intam<u>neen</u>? إنتـَمنين؟ -> inta mi<u>neen</u>? إنت َ مـِنين؟

This also happens if you attach an object suffix that begins with an i.

### consonant clusters

If putting two words next to each other makes more than two consonants in a row, a shwa (which sounds like a short a) is inserted between the words.

baAda<u>ki</u>dah بـَعد كـِد َه -> baAd <u>ki</u>dah بـَعد كـِد َه

### Sun letters

If the definite article, **il-**لـِ ا, is attached to a word that begins with a sun-letter (**t s sh d z r z S D T Z n** ت س ش د ذ ر ز ص ض ط ظ ن) the l is dropped and the sun-letter is doubled:

ish<u>shams</u> ا ِشّـَمَس -> il- <u>shams</u> ا ِل شـَمس

## Exceptions

The pronunciation of some pronoun and verb endings is a little unusual. For the **you(pl) 'intu** إنتوا subject pronoun and for **you(pl)** and **they** in the verb perfect, the ending is written **-w a** ‍ـوا but pronounced **-uh** ‍ـُه.

The word **because** is written **Aala<u>sh</u>aan** عَـلَـشَا َن but pronounced **Aa<u>sh</u>aan** عَـشَا َن.

The word **orange** is written **burtu'aal** بـُرتـُقَا ل but pronounced **burtu'aan** بـُرتـُقَا َن.

# Irregular verbs

Here are some of the most common irregular verbs:

- be/was - **kaan** كا َن
- eat - **kul** كـُل
- take - **Kud** خـُد
- come - **gih** جيه
- give - **idda** ِد ّى
- fall - **wi'iA** و ِقـيع
- stop - **wi'if** و ِقـيِف

## Be - **kaan** كا َن

The verb 'to be' does not exist in the present tense. It is used only in the perfect and Ha-imperfect forms.

| English | Pronoun | Perfect | Ha-Imperfect |
|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
| I | 'ana<br>أناَ | kunt<br>كـُنت | hakoon<br>هـَيكون |
| we | 'ihna<br>إحناَ | kunna<br>كـُنّـَ | hankoon<br>هـَنكون |
| you (m) | 'inta<br>إنتَ | kunt<br>كـُنت | hatkoon<br>هـَتكون |
| you (f) | 'inti<br>إنتِ | kunti<br>كـُنتِي | hatkooni<br>هـَتكوني |
| you (pl) | 'intu<br>إنتوا | kuntuh<br>كـُنتـُّه | hatkoonuh<br>هـَتكونـُّه |
| he | huwwa<br>هـُوّـَّ | kaan<br>كاَن | haykoon<br>هـَيَكون |
| she | hiya<br>هـِيَ | kaanit<br>كاَنـِت | hatkoon<br>هـَتكون |
| they | humma<br>هـُمّاَ | kanooh<br>كاَنوه | haykoonuh<br>هـَيَكونـُّه |

## Eat- **kul** كـُل

kul has irregular imperfect froms

| Pronoun | Perfect | Imperfect | Imperative | Active Participle |
|---------|---------|-----------|------------|-------------------|
| 'ana<br>أناَ | kalt<br>كـَلت | aakul<br>اَكـُل | | |
| ihna<br>ا ِحناَ | kalna<br>كـَلناَ | naakul<br>ناَكـُل | | |
| 'inta<br>إنتَ | kalt<br>كـَلت | taakul<br>تاَكـُل | kul<br>كـُل | |
| 'inti<br>إنتي | kalti<br>كـَلتي | takli<br>تـَكلي | kooli<br>كولي | |

| Pronoun | Perfect | Imperfect | Imperative | Active Participle |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 'intu إنتوا | kaltu كـَلتوا | kalu كـَلوا | kulw كـُلو | |
| huwwa هـُوّ | kal كـَل | yaakul يـاكـُل | | |
| hiya هـِي | kalit كـَلـِت | taakul تـاكـُل | | |
| humma هـُمّا | kalw كـَلو | yaklooh يـِكلوه | | |

## Take- Kud خـُد

Kud has irregular imperfect froms

| Pronoun | Perfect | Imperfect | Imperative | Active Participle |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 'ana أنا | Kudt خـُدت | aaKud اَخـُد | | |
| ihna اِحنا | Kadna خـَدنا | naaKud نـاخـُد | | |
| 'inta إنت | Kudt خـُدت | taaKud تـاخـُد | Kud خـُد | |
| 'inti إنتي | Kadi خـَدي | taKdi تـَخدي | Kudti خـُدتي | |
| 'intu إنتوا | Kadtw خـَدتو | Kadtw خـَدتو | Kudw خـُدو | |
| huwwa هـُوّ | aaKad اَخـَد | yaaKud يـاخـُد | | |
| hiya هـِي | Kadit خـَدِت | taaKud تـاخـُد | | |
| humma هـُمّا | aaKadu اَخـَدوا | yaKduh يـِخدُه | | |

## Come- gih جـِه

| Pronoun | Perfect | Imperfect | Imperative | Active Participle |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 'ana أنا | geet جيت | 'egi آجي | | |
| ihna اِحنا | geena جينا | neegi نيجي | | |
| 'inta إنت | geet جيت | teegi تيجي | taAaala تـَعا َل | gaai جا َي |
| 'inti إنتي | geeti جيتي | teegi تيجي | taAaali تـَعا َلي | gaaya جا َيا |
| 'intu إنتوا | geetu جيتوا | teegu تيجوا | taAalu تـَعا َلوا | gayyin جـَيـيـِن |

| Pronoun | Perfect | Imperfect | Imperative | Active Participle |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| hu<u>ww</u>a هُوّ | <u>gih</u> جيه | yigi يـِـجي | | |
| hiya هـِـيَ | <u>gaat</u> جاَت | tigi تـِـجي | | |
| <u>hum</u>ma هـُـمّاَ | <u>goom</u> جوم | yigu يـِـجوا | | |

## Give- i<u>dda</u> اِدّى

| Pronoun | Perfect | Imperfect | Imperative | Active Participle |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 'ana أناَ | 'i<u>dee</u>t إديت | a<u>dd</u>i اَدّي | | |
| ih<u>na</u> اِحناَ | 'i<u>dee</u>na إدّيناَ | ni<u>dd</u>i نـِـدّي | | |
| 'in<u>ta</u> إنتَ | 'i<u>dd</u>eet إدّيت | ti<u>dd</u>i تـِـدّي | 'iddi إدّي | |
| 'in<u>ti</u> إنتي | 'i<u>dd</u>eeti إدّيتي | ti<u>dd</u>i تـِـدّي | 'iddit إدّ ِ ت | |
| 'in<u>tu</u> إنتوا | 'i<u>dd</u>eetu إدّيتوا | ti<u>dd</u>u تـِـدّوا | 'iddu إدّوا | |
| hu<u>ww</u>a هـُـوّ | 'i<u>dd</u>a إدّى | yi<u>dd</u>i يـِـدّي | | |
| hiya هـِـيَ | 'i<u>dd</u>eet إدّيت | ti<u>dd</u>i تـِـدّي | | |
| <u>hum</u>ma هـُـمّاَ | 'i<u>dd</u>u إدّوا | yi<u>dd</u>u يـِـدّوا | | |

## fall- <u>wi'iA</u> و ِقـِـع

Note the irregular imperfect.

| Pronoun | Perfect | Imperfect | Imperative | Active Participle |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 'ana أناَ | wi'i<u>At</u> و ِقـِـعت | aa'a<u>A</u> اَقـَـع | | |
| ih<u>na</u> اِحناَ | wi'i<u>A</u>na و ِقـِـعناَ | nu'aA نـُـقـَـع | | |
| 'in<u>ta</u> إنتَ | wi'i<u>At</u> و ِقـِـعت | tu'aA تـُـقـَـع | | waa'iA واَقـِـع |
| 'in<u>ti</u> إنتي | wi'i<u>A</u>ti و ِقـِـعتي | tu'a<u>A</u>i تـُـقـَـعي | | wa'Ait واَقعـِـت |
| 'in<u>tu</u> إنتوا | wi'i<u>A</u>tu و ِقـِـعتوا | tu'aAu تـُـقـَـعوا | | wa'Aeen واَقعين |
| hu<u>ww</u>a هـُـوّ | <u>wi</u>'iA و ِقـِـع | yu'aA يـُـقـَـع | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| hiya هِـي | wi'Ait وِقعِـت | tu'aA تـُقـَع | | |
| humma هـُمّـآ | wi'Au وِقعوا | yu'aAu يـُقـَـعوا | | |

## wi'if قِـيف و - stand

Note the irregular imperfect.

| Pronoun | Perfect | Imperfect | Imperative | Active Participle |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 'ana أناَ | wi'ift وِقِـفت | aa'af اَقـَف | | |
| ihna اِحناَ | wi'ifna وِقِـفناَ | nu'af نـُقـَف | | |
| 'inta إنتَ | wi'ift وِقِـفت | tu'af تـُقـَف | oo'af اُقـَف | waa'if واَقـِف |
| 'inti إنتي | wi'ifti وِقِـفتي | tu'afi تـُقـَفي | oo'afi اُقـَفي | waa'ifti واَقـِفتي |
| 'intu إنتوا | wi'iftu وِقِـفتوا | tu'afu تـُقـَفوا | oo'afu اُقـَفوا | wa'feen واَقـِفين |
| huwwa هـُوّ | wi'if وِقـِف | yu'af يـُقـَف | | |
| hiya هـِي | wi'fit وِقفِـت | tu'af تـُقـَف | | |
| humma هـُمّـآ | wi'fu وِقفوا | yu'afu يـُقـَفوا | | |

# Verbs: Root and Stem

A verb is made up of a root (a set of consonants) and a stem (a prefix and the vowels between). There may be more than one verb derived from the same root- for example, starting with fhm, you can make fihim (to understand) and fahhim (to make somebody understand).

Most roots have three consonants: some have either two or four. For the purposes of this explanation, I have used the letters DKST- all uppercase- for consonants, and lowercase letters for all vowels except Y - alif layena. You can say these words if you wish, but they don't actually mean anything. Remember that Ain is a consonant.

There are five main roots, and each of these can make three main stem types, as per the following table.

|   | A | B | C | D | E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | DaaK<br>DyK<br>DwK | DaKy<br>DaKY<br>DaKaa | DaKK | DaKaS<br>DaKis<br>DiKis | DaKSaT<br>DaKSiT |
| 2 | DayyiK<br>DawwaK | DaKKY<br>DaKKy | DaKKaK | DaKKaS<br>DaKKiS | |
| 3 | DaayiK<br>DaawiK | DaaKy<br>DaaKY | | DaaKiS | |

From any of these main stems, it is possible to derive more stems by adding prefixes. Here are some examples:

| Prefix | Main stem | Derived stem | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|
| iit- | DaKaS | iitDaKaS<br>yitDaKaS | passive (be *-ed)<br>reflexive (* oneself) |
| iit- | DaKKaS | iitDaKKaS<br>yitDaKKaS | passive (be *-ed)<br>reflexive (* oneself) |
| iit- | DaaKiS | iitDaaKiS<br>yitDaaKiS | each other |
| iiDt- | DaKaS | iiDtaKaS<br>yiDtaKaS | as iit- |
| iin- | DaKaS | iinDaKaS<br>yinDaKaS | as iit- |
| iista- | DaKaS | iistaDaKaS<br>yistaDaKaS | consider or seek |

There are also some verbs that are derived from classical arabic- the perfect generally begins with **'a** أ or **ta-** ﹷﺗ.

# About this dictionary

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| compiler | lcc-32 | Jakob Navia et al | www.cs.virginia.edu/~lcc-win32 |
| database | sqlite | D. Richard Hipp | www.sqlite.org |
| mp3 encoder | lame | Mark Taylor et al | lame.sourceforge.net |
| html/php/javascript editor | pspad | Jan Fiala | www.pspad.com |
| PDF generator | pdf reactor | | www.pdfreactor.com |
| icon editor | icoFx | Attila Kovrig | www.icofx.ro |
| sqlite editor | sqlite expert | Bogdan Ureche | www.sqliteexpert.com |

Egyptian is a dialect of arabic spoken by 85 million people who are spread along a narrow strip of land beside 1500km of the river Nile. Egyptian arabic is a living, ever-changing language; it's not taught in schools and it's rarely written down.

As a result, there are considerable variations in vocabulary and pronunciation. Let's not talk about spelling :-/. The details in this dictionary have been checked and cross-checked, but there will always be mistakes and inconsistencies.

The dictionary is supplied 'as is': you are welcome to use it on condition that you do not hold me responsible for any loss, injury or embarrassment that may result from its use.

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