

User Guide to the Arabic Vocabulary Course

Note about transliteration

This course teaches you Egyptian spoken Arabic. The Arabic words are transliterated in this track listing, so that you can read them even if you don't know the Arabic script. To show some sounds that don't exist in English we've had to use some extra symbols:

‘ This represents the sound called ‘*ain*. It's like a deep ‘aah’ sound, that comes from the stomach rather than the throat.

’ This shows that a ‘q’ sound has been omitted. It's like the sound a Cockney makes when s/he says ‘butter’, leaving out the ‘tt’: ‘bu’er.’

D, S, T, Z We use these capital letters to represent the back versions of these sounds. Arabic distinguishes between pairs of sounds such as the English ‘s’ of ‘sorry’ and the ‘s’ of ‘silly’. The ‘s’ of ‘sorry’ is said at the back of the mouth, while the ‘s’ of ‘silly’ is said at the front. In English these don't represent separate letters but in Arabic they do, and in this track listing we show them by using the capital letters.

H We use this capital letter to represent the breathy version of the ‘h’ sound. Arabic distinguishes between the ‘h’ sound as in the English ‘hotel’ and a breathier version, a little like the sound made when you're breathing on glasses to clean them. In Arabic these are separate letters.

Bonus words

The following sets of words will enable you to expand what you can say by varying slightly the structures you already know. Substitute similar words to create many more new sentences and questions.

Numbers

1	<i>waaHid</i>	21	<i>waaHid w-ʿishreen</i> (one and twenty)
2	<i>itnayn</i>	29	<i>tisʿa w-ʿishreen</i> (nine and twenty)
3	<i>talata</i>	30	<i>talateen</i>
4	<i>arbʿa</i>	31	<i>waaHid w-talateen</i> (one and thirty)
5	<i>khamisa</i>	36	<i>sitta w-talateen</i> (six and thirty)
6	<i>sitta</i>	40	<i>arbaʿeen</i>
7	<i>sabʿa</i>	41	<i>waaHid w-arbaʿeen</i> (one and forty)
8	<i>tamanya</i>	45	<i>khamisa w-arbaʿeen</i> (five and forty)
9	<i>tisʿa</i>	50	<i>khamseen</i>
10	<i>ʿashra</i>	60	<i>sitteen</i>
11	<i>hidʿashar</i>	70	<i>sabaʿeen</i>
12	<i>itrʿashar</i>	80	<i>tamaneen</i>
13	<i>talatʿashar</i>	90	<i>tisʿeen</i>
14	<i>arbʿatʿashar</i>	100	<i>mia</i>
15	<i>khamastʿashar</i>	1000	<i>elf</i>
16	<i>sittʿashar</i>		
17	<i>sabaʿtʿashar</i>		
18	<i>tamantʿashar</i>		
19	<i>tisʿtʿashar</i>		
20	<i>ʿishreen</i>		

Days of the week

il-Had **Sunday**

il-itnayn **Monday**

it-talaat **Tuesday**

il-arbʿa **Wednesday**

il-khamees **Thursday**

il-gumʿa **Friday**

is-sabt **Saturday**

maaris **March**

abreel **April**

maayo **May**

yoonyo **June**

yoolyo **July**

aghusTus **August**

septembir **September**

oktobir **October**

nofembir **November**

deeseembir **December**

Months of the year

yanaayir **January**

febraayir **February**

Words for describing position

fee in

ʿala on/on top of

taHt under

foh above

wara behind

bayn between

ganb next to

udaam opposite/in front of

Hawalayn around

Question words

fayn? where?

eh? what?

imta? when?

meen? who?

izzay? how?

leh? why?

kaam? how many?

bikaam? how much?

Other useful verbs (present/past)

yinzil/nizil get off/go down

(root = *n-z-l*)

yilbis/libis wear/put on (root = *n-z-l*)

yudkhul/dakhal enter/go in

(root = *d-kh-l*)

yuTlub/Talab ask for (root = *T-l-b*)

yʿamil/ʿamal do/make (root = *ʿ-m-l*)

yidfāʿ/dafaʿ pay (root = *d-f-ʿ*)

yiishtiril/ishtara buy (root = *sh-r-y*)

yi'aabil/'aabil meet (root = *q-b-l*)

Common Arabic signs

toilets

دورات المياه

entry

دخول

exit

خروج

no entry

ممنوع الدخول

police

الشرطة

ambulance

سيارة الإسعاف

hospital

مستشفى

tickets

تذاكر

information

استعلامات