

Greetings & meeting people

Vocabulary, pronunciation, a café dialogue and five exercises. Read every Arabic line out loud.

NAME _____

DATE _____

A. VOCABULARY

(M) TO A MAN · (F) TO A WOMAN

Tick the box once you can say the phrase from the English alone. Learn the (m) form first; the (f) ending is the only thing that changes.

GREETINGS & GOODBYES

ENGLISH	ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION
☐ Hi / hello	أهلاً	ahlan
☐ Peace be upon you (formal hello)	السلام عليكم	es-salamu 'aleikum reply: wa 'aleikum es-salam
☐ Good morning	صباح الخير	sabah el-kheir reply: sabah en-nur
☐ Good evening	مساء الخير	masa' el-kheir reply: masa' en-nur
☐ How are you?	إزيك؟	izzayyak? (m) · izzayyik? (f)
☐ Good, thank God. And you?	كويس الحمد لله، وإنت؟	kwayyis el-hamdulillah, w-enta? (f) kwayyisa ... w-enti?
☐ Goodbye	مع السلامة	ma'a s-salama
☐ Good night	تصبح على خير	tisbah 'ala kheir (f) tisbahi

MEETING SOMEONE

ENGLISH	ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION
☐ What's your name?	اسمك إيه؟	ismak eh? (m) · ismik eh? (f)
☐ My name is ...	أنا اسمي ...	ana ismi ...
☐ Nice to meet you	فرصة سعيدة	forsa sa'ida
☐ Where are you from?	إنت منين؟	enta minein? (m) · enti minein? (f)
☐ I'm from Germany	أنا من ألمانيا	ana min almanya

☐ I'm learning Arabic	أنا بتعلم عربي	ana bat'allim 'arabi
☐ Do you speak English?	بتتكلم إنجليزي؟	betetkallim ingilizi? (f) betetkallimi
☐ I don't understand	مش فاهم	mish fahem (m) · mish fahma (f)
☐ Slowly, please	بالراحة لو سمحت	bir-raha law samaht

B. PRONUNCIATION

Three sounds that make it Egyptian

- ج is a hard **g** as in "go", never "j". The camel is **gamal**, beautiful is **gamil**.
- ق is usually a glottal stop, the small catch in the middle of "uh-oh". Written ' in this sheet. Coffee is 'ahwa, not "qahwa".
- ع (') is a sound from deep in the throat. For now, say a deep "a" and keep going. 'arabi, ma'a salama.

A. VOCABULARY (CONTINUED)

SMALL WORDS YOU WILL USE EVERY HOUR

ENGLISH	ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION
☐ Yes / no	أيوه / لا	aywa / la'
☐ Okay, fine	ماشي / تمام	mashi / tamam
☐ Let's go, come on	يلا	yalla
☐ Very (goes after the word)	أوي	awi helw awi = very nice
☐ Really?	بجد؟	bigadd?
☐ Sorry	آسف	asif (m) · asfa (f)
☐ No problem	مفيش مشكلة	mafish mushkila
☐ Thank you / you're welcome	شكراً / العفو	shukran / el-'afw

C. EXERCISES

Ex. 1 Match the situation to the phrase

__ / 6

Write the letter next to each situation.

- | | | | |
|---|----------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. You walk into a shop in the morning. _____ | A | forsa sa'ida | فرصة سعيدة |
| 2. Someone asks how you are. _____ | B | ma'a s-salama | مع السلامة |
| 3. You have just been introduced. _____ | C | sabah el-kheir | صباح الخير |
| 4. Someone speaks too fast. _____ | D | bir-raha law samaht | بالراحة لو سمحت |
| 5. Someone bumps into you and says sorry. _____ | E | kwayyis el-hamdulillah | كويس الحمد لله |
| 6. You leave the café. _____ | F | mafish mushkila | مفيش مشكلة |

Ex. 2 Fill the gaps

__ / 6

Use each word from the box once.

minein	ismak	kwayyis	izzayyik	aywa	ana
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A ahlan, _____ ? B _____ el-hamdulillah, w-enta?

A enta _____ ? B ana min masr.

A _____ eh? B _____ ismi Karim.

A enta min el-qahira? B _____ , min el-qahira.

Ex. 3 Man or woman?

__ / 5

Each line is said to a man. Rewrite it so it is said to a woman. The first one is done for you.

0 izzayyak? → izzayyik?

1 ismak eh? → _____

2 enta minein? → _____

3 betetkallim ingilizi? → _____

4 law samaht → _____

5 tisbah 'ala kheir → _____

D. DIALOGUE: AT A CAFÉ IN CAIRO

Sara is learning Arabic. Omar runs the café. Read the dialogue twice out loud, once as Sara and once as Omar. Then answer the questions below.

Omar	أهلاً وسهلاً! اتفضللي.	ahlan wa sahlani! itfaddali. Welcome! Have a seat.
Sara	شكراً. لو سمحت، عايزة شاي بالنعناع.	shukran. law samaht, 'ayza shay bin-ni'na'. Thanks. A mint tea, please.
Omar	ماشي. إنتي منين؟	mashi. enti minein? Sure. Where are you from?
Sara	أنا من ألمانيا. أنا بتعلم عربي.	ana min almanya. ana bat'allim 'arabi. I'm from Germany. I'm learning Arabic.
Omar	بجد؟ بتتكلمي كويس أوي!	bigadd? betetkallimi kwayyis awi! Really? You speak very well!
Sara	لا، لسه. بالراحة لو سمحت.	la, lissa. bir-raha law samaht. No, not yet. Slowly, please.
Omar	ماشي، ماشي. اسمك إيه؟	mashi, mashi. ismik eh? Okay, okay. What's your name?
Sara	أنا اسمي سارة. وإنت؟	ana ismi Sara. w-enta? My name is Sara. And you?
Omar	عمر. فرصة سعيدة يا سارة.	Omar. forsa sa'ida ya Sara. Omar. Nice to meet you, Sara.
Sara	فرصة سعيدة. الحساب لو سمحت.	forsa sa'ida. el-hisab law samaht. Nice to meet you. The bill, please.
Omar	مفيش مشكلة. مع السلامة!	mafish mushkila. ma'a s-salama! No problem. Goodbye!

Ex. 4 Understanding the dialogue

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Answer in English or in Arabic.

1. What does Sara order?

2. Where is Sara from?

3. Why does Sara say "bir-raha law samaht"?

4. Find the word Omar uses for "really?".

Ex. 5 Your turn: introduce yourself

Write four lines about yourself, using the phrases from section A. Then say them out loud three times without reading.

1 · GREETING AND "HOW ARE YOU?"

3 · WHERE YOU ARE FROM, AND THAT YOU ARE
LEARNING ARABIC

2 · YOUR NAME

4 · "NICE TO MEET YOU" AND A GOODBYE

Done? Speaking check

- ☐ I said every phrase in section A out loud at least three times.
- ☐ I read the dialogue as Sara and as Omar.
- ☐ I said my introduction from Ex. 5 without reading it.

Answer key

For teachers and self-learners. Remove this page before handing the sheet out in class.

Ex. 1 1 C · 2 E · 3 A · 4 D · 5 F · 6 B

Ex. 2 izzayyik (or izzayyak) · kwayyis · minein · ismak · ana · aywa

Ex. 3 1 ismik eh? · 2 enti minein? · 3 betetkallimi ingilizi? · 4 law samahti · 5 tisbahi 'ala kheir

Ex. 4 1 A mint tea (shay bin-ni'na'). · 2 Germany (almanya). · 3 Omar speaks too fast; she asks him to speak slowly. · 4 bigadd?

Ex. 5 Open answer. A model answer: ahlan! izzayyak? · ana ismi Lina. · ana min almanya w-ana bat'allim 'arabi. · forsa sa'ida! ma'a s-salama.

TEACHER'S NOTES

- Timing: about 45 minutes for the full sheet, or section A plus the dialogue as a 20-minute warm-up.
- The dialogue works well in pairs. Swap roles after the first read. Ask students to replace Sara's name and country with their own on the second read.
- Ex. 3 is the key exercise: the (m)/(f) ending is the one grammar point beginners need from day one in Egyptian Arabic.
- Transliteration follows common Egyptian usage, not an academic standard: ' = glottal stop, ' = 'ayn, kh as in Scottish "loch".

NEXT WORKSHEET

Worksheet 3: Pronouns, questions & "I have". Build your own sentences: I and you, my and your, the seven question words. Free at yallahspeak.com/worksheets/egyptian-arabic.

To practise this dialogue with an AI partner who answers in Egyptian Arabic and corrects your pronunciation word by word, try the Yallah Speak app (free to start, iOS and Android).