

Pronouns, questions & "I have"

The grammar you need to build your own sentences: I and you, my and your, I have, and the seven question words. Say every Arabic line out loud.

NAME _____

DATE _____

A. PERSONAL PRONOUNS, AND "I HAVE" _____ (M) TO A MAN · (F) TO A WOMAN

Two words for "you" in the singular: enta to a man, enti to a woman. "I have" is not a verb: 'and (at) plus the endings from section B.

ENGLISH	ARABIC	SAY IT
☐ I	أنا	ana
☐ you (m)	إنت	enta
☐ you (f)	إنتي	enti
☐ he	هو	huwwa
☐ she	هي	hiyya
☐ we	إحنا	ehna
☐ you (plural)	إنتو	entu
☐ they	هما	humma

ENGLISH	ARABIC	SAY IT
☐ I have	عندي	'andi
☐ you (m) have	عندك	'andak
☐ you (f) have	عندك	'andik
☐ he has	عنده	'andu
☐ she has	عندها	'andaha
☐ we have	عندنا	'andina
☐ you (pl) have	عندكو	'anduku
☐ they have	عندهم	'anduhum

In a sentence: ana min masr (I'm from Egypt) · enta masri? (are you Egyptian?) · hiyya tayyiba (she is kind) · 'andi ikhwat (I have siblings) · 'andak wa't? (do you have time?)

B. MY, YOUR, HIS: POSSESSIVE ENDINGS _____

No separate word for "my" or "your": you attach an ending to the noun. A feminine noun ending in -a changes to -it first. Same on names: ismi, ismak, ismik, ismu, ismaha.

KITAB = BOOK (MASCULINE)

my book	كتابي	kitabī
your (m) book	كتابك	kitabak
your (f) book	كتابك	kitabik
his book	كتابه	kitabū
her book	كتابها	kitabha
our book	كتابنا	kitabna
your (pl) book	كتابكو	kitabku
their book	كتابهم	kitabhum

'ARABIYYA = CAR (FEMININE, ENDS IN -A)

my car	عربييتي	'arabiyyiti
your (m) car	عربييتك	'arabiyyitak
your (f) car	عربييتك	'arabiyyitik
his car	عربييته	'arabiyyitu
her car	عربييتها	'arabiyyitha
our car	عربييتنا	'arabiyyitna
your (pl) car	عربييتكو	'arabiyyitku
their car	عربييتهم	'arabiyyithum

C. "I DON'T HAVE" AND "THERE IS"

Negate 'and by wrapping it in ma...sh. "There is" is fi, "there isn't" is mafish. You will say mafish mushkila ten times a day.

MA...SH = NOT		FI = THERE IS · MAFISH = THERE ISN'T	
I don't have	ma'andish	Is there water?	fi mayya? في مية؟
you (m) don't have	ma'andaksh	Is there a problem?	fi mushkila?
you (f) don't have	ma'andikish	No problem	mafish mushkila
he doesn't have	ma'andush	There's no sugar	mafish sukkar
I have no money	ma'andish filus	Is there wifi?	fi wifi?

D. THE SEVEN QUESTION WORDS

The question word usually comes at the **end**: enta fein? (you where?), ismak eh? (your name what?). Both orders are understood; the end position is what you will hear.

ENGLISH	ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION AND EXAMPLE
☐ what?	إيه؟	eh? ismak eh? = what's your name?
☐ where?	فين؟	fein? enta fein? = where are you? · minein = from where
☐ when?	إمتى؟	imta? el-film imta? = when is the film?
☐ why?	ليه؟	leh? leh la'? = why not?
☐ who?	مين؟	min? da min? = who is this?
☐ how?	إزاي؟	izzay? izzay el-hal? = how are things?
☐ how many? / how much?	كام؟ / بكام؟	kam? / bikam? 'andak kam akh? = how many brothers? · bikam da? = how much is this?

Pronunciation

- ع (') starts 'andi: a sound from deep in the throat. Say a deep "a" and keep going; skip it and 'andi becomes "andi", which sounds foreign.
- The e in **enta**, **ehna** is short, as in "end". Question words carry the stress: enta **FEIN?** ismak **EH?**

E. EXERCISES

Ex. 1 Pick the pronoun

__ / 8

One pronoun per gap, each used once.

ana	enta	enti	huwwa	hiyya
ehna	entu	humma		

- _____ ismi Karim. (I)
- _____ min masr? (you, m)
- _____ duktura. (she)
- _____ ashabi. (they)
- _____ fi el-'ahwa. (we)
- _____ ismik eh? (you, f)
- _____ min el-'ahira. (he)
- _____ minein? (you, plural)

Ex. 3 Ask the question

__ / 6

Here is the answer. Write the question (to a man).

- ana min almanya. → _____
- ana ismi Omar. → _____
- ana fi el-beit. → _____
- da bi-'ashara gineh. → _____
- el-film bukra. → _____
- da akhuya. → _____

Ex. 2 Make it mine

__ / 8

Attach the right ending. kitab book · beit house · 'arabiyya car · ism name · shanta bag

- your (f) book → _____
- our house → _____
- their car → _____
- his name → _____
- my bag → _____
- her house → _____
- your (m) car → _____
- your (pl) name → _____

Ex. 4 Negate it

__ / 5

Make each sentence negative with ma...sh or mafish.

- 'andi wa't. → _____
- fi sukkar. → _____
- 'andak 'arabiyya. → _____
- 'andaha ikhwat. → _____
- fi mushkila. → _____

F. PARTNER INTERVIEW

PAIRS · 10 MINUTES

Ask your partner the eight questions below and note the answers in transliteration, then switch roles. Questions are written to a man; to a woman, use the (f) form in brackets. Working alone? Answer each question about yourself out loud, then about a friend.

اسمك إيه؟

إنت منين؟

ismak eh? (f) ismik eh?

enta minein? (f) enti minein?

What's your name?

Where are you from?

A _____ B _____

A _____ B _____

إزيك؟

عندك كام أخ وأخت؟

izzayyak? (f) *izzayyik?*

How are you?

A _____ B _____

عندك عريية؟

'andak 'arabiyya? (f) *'andik*

Do you have a car?

A _____ B _____

بتتكلم إنجليزي؟

betetkallim ingilizi? (f) *betetkallimi*

Do you speak English?

A _____ B _____

'andak kam akh wa ukht? (f) *'andik*

How many brothers and sisters do you have?

A _____ B _____

إنت ساكن فين؟

enta sakin fein? (f) *enti sakna fein?*

Where do you live?

A _____ B _____

عايز تشرب إيه؟

'ayiz tishrab eh? (f) *'ayza tishrabi eh?*

What do you want to drink?

A _____ B _____

Useful answers: 'andi akh wahid wa ukht wahda (one brother and one sister) · ana sakin fi Berlin (I live in Berlin) · aywa, shwayya (yes, a little) · 'ayiz shay / 'ahwa / mayya (I want tea / coffee / water).

Ex. 5 Write about your partner

__ / 4

Four sentences about your partner, in the third person. Use *huwwa* / *hiyya* and the endings -u / -ha. Then read them to the class or say them out loud three times.

1 · HIS / HER NAME: *HUWWA ISMU ... / HIYYA ISMAHA ...*2 · WHERE FROM: *HUWWA MIN ... / HIYYA MIN ...*3 · SIBLINGS OR CAR: *'ANDU ... / 'ANDAHA ... (OR MA'ANDUSH / MA'ANDAHASH)*4 · WHERE HE / SHE LIVES: *HUWWA SAKIN FI ... / HIYYA SAKNA FI ...***Bonus Ask about things in the room**

Point at things and ask your partner: *da eh?* (what is this?) · *da bita' min?* (whose is this?) · *fi ... hena?* (is there ... here?). Three questions each, answers in full sentences: *da kitab.* · *da kitabi.* · *aywa, fi. / la', mafish.*

QUESTION I ASKED

ANSWER I GOT

Done? Speaking check

- ☐ I said all eight pronouns and the 'andi forms out loud three times.
- ☐ I asked all eight interview questions without reading the Arabic.
- ☐ I read my four sentences from Ex. 5 to someone.

Answer key

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

Ex. 1 1 ana · 2 enta · 3 hiyya · 4 humma · 5 ehna · 6 enti · 7 huwwa · 8 entu

Ex. 2 1 kitabik · 2 beitna · 3 ‘arabiyyithum · 4 ismu · 5 shantiti · 6 beitha · 7 ‘arabiyyitak · 8 ismuku (also heard: ismiku)

Ex. 3 1 enta minein? · 2 ismak eh? · 3 enta fein? · 4 da bikam? (or bikam da?) · 5 el-film imta? · 6 da min?

Ex. 4 1 ma‘andish wa’t. · 2 mafish sukkar. · 3 ma‘andaksh ‘arabiyya. · 4 ma‘andahash ikhwat. · 5 mafish mushkila.

Ex. 5 Open answer. Model: hiyya ismaha Lina. · hiyya min almanya. · ‘andaha akh wahid wa ma‘andahash ‘arabiyya. · hiyya sakna fi Berlin.

Interview Open answers. Accept any understandable transliteration; what matters is that the question was asked and answered in Arabic.

TEACHER'S NOTES

- Timing: about 45 minutes. Sections A to C with Ex. 1 and 2 (20 min), section D with Ex. 3 and 4 (10 min), interview plus Ex. 5 (15 min). The interview also works alone as a 15-minute warm-up in a later lesson.
- The interview is the centrepiece. Let pairs report back to the class in the third person ("hiyya ismaha ..., ‘andaha ..."). That forces huwwa / hiyya and the -u / -ha endings, which is the whole point of the sheet.
- Ex. 4 is the key exercise: the ma...sh negation (ma‘andish, mafish) is the pattern students will use most and get wrong longest. Drill it chorally before the exercise.
- Common mistake from textbooks: Fusha forms like ‘indi, laysa ‘indi, ayna, ma huwa. Correct gently to ‘andi, ma‘andish, fein, eh. Nobody in Cairo says ayna.
- Transliteration follows common Egyptian usage: ‘ = glottal stop (the Cairo ق), ‘ = ‘ayn, kh as in Scottish "loch". "your (m)" -ak and "your (f)" -ik are spelled the same in Arabic script.

NEXT WORKSHEET

Worksheet 4: Numbers, Prices & Time. Counting to 1000, reading price tags, telling the time, a market dialogue. Free at yallahspeak.com/worksheets/egyptian-arabic.

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