

Pronouns, questions & "I have"

The grammar you need to build your own sentences in Lebanese: 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, ente to a woman, plus entu for a group. "I have" is not a verb: 'and (at) plus an ending.

ENGLISH	ARABIC	SAY IT
☐ I	أنا	ana
☐ you (m)	إنت	enta
☐ you (f)	إنتِ	ente
☐ he	هوّي	huwwe
☐ she	هيّي	hiyye
☐ we	نحنّا	nehna
☐ you (plural)	إنتو	entu
☐ they	هنيّ	hinne

ENGLISH	ARABIC	SAY IT
☐ I have	عندي	'andi
☐ you (m) have	عندك	'andak
☐ you (f) have	عندكِ	'andik
☐ he has	عندو	'ando
☐ she has	عندّا	'anda
☐ we have	عناّ	'anna
☐ you (pl) have	عندكن	'andkon
☐ they have	عندن	'andon

In a sentence: ana men Beirut (I'm from Beirut) · enta lebnene? (are you Lebanese?) · hiyye mniha ktir (she is very nice) · 'andi ekhwe (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 or -e gets a -t- first. Same on names: esmi, esmak, esmik, esmo, esma.

KTAB = BOOK (MASCULINE)

my book	كتّابي	ktabi
your (m) book	كتّابك	ktabak
your (f) book	كتّابكِ	ktabik
his book	كتّابو	ktabo
her book	كتّابّا	ktaba
our book	كتّابنا	ktabna

SAYYARA = CAR (FEMININE, ENDS IN -A)

my car	سيّارتي	sayyarti
your (m) car	سيّارتك	sayyartak
your (f) car	سيّارتكِ	sayyartik
his car	سيّارتو	sayyarto
her car	سيّارتّا	sayyarta
our car	سيّارتنا	sayyaretna

your (pl) book	كتابكن ktabkon	your (pl) car	سيارتكن sayyaretkon
their book	كتابن ktabon	their car	سيارتن sayyarton

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

Just put **ma** in front: ma 'andi. No -sh at the end as in Egypt. "There is" is fi, "there isn't" is ma fi. You will say ma fi mushkle ten times a day.

MA = NOT		FI = THERE IS · MA FI = THERE ISN'T	
I don't have	ma 'andi	Is there water?	fi mayy? في مي؟
you (m) don't have	ma 'andak	Is there a problem?	fi shi mushkle?
you (f) don't have	ma 'andik	No problem	ma fi mushkle
he doesn't have	ma 'ando	There's no sugar	ma fi sekkar
I have no money	ma 'andi masari	Is there wifi?	fi wifi?

D. THE SEVEN QUESTION WORDS

In Lebanese the question word usually comes at the **start**: shu esmak? (what your name?), wein enta? (where you?). The end position (enta wein?) is heard too, especially when you are surprised.

ENGLISH	ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION AND EXAMPLE
☐ what?	شو؟	shu? shu esmak? = what's your name? · shu baddak? = what do you want?
☐ where?	وين؟	wein? wein enta? = where are you? · mnein = from where · la-wein = where to
☐ when?	إيمتى؟	emta? emta el-film? = when is the film?
☐ why?	ليش؟	leish? leish la'? = why not?
☐ who?	مين؟	min? min hayda? = who is this (m)? · min hayde? (f)
☐ how?	كيف؟	kif? kif el-hal? = how are things? · kifak = how are you
☐ how many? / how much?	كم؟ / قديش؟	kam? / 'addesh? kam khayy 'andak? = how many brothers? · 'addesh hayda? = 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.
- Lebanese loves the vowels e and o: **ente**, **huwwe**, **hinne**, ‘**ando**, ‘**andkon**. The final -e in **ente** is what tells people you are talking to a woman, so say it clearly. Question words carry the stress: **SHU** esmak? **WEIN** enta?

E. EXERCISES**Ex. 1 Pick the pronoun** — / 8

One pronoun per gap, each used once.

ana	enta	ente	huwwe
hiyye	nehna	entu	hinne

- _____ esmi Karim. (I)
- _____ men Beirut? (you, m)
- _____ doktora. (she)
- _____ rfa’ati. (they)
- _____ bel-’ahwe. (we)
- shu esmik, _____ ? (you, f)
- _____ men Saida. (he)
- _____ mnein? (you, plural)

Ex. 3 Ask the question — / 6

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

- ana men almanya. → _____
- ana esmi Omar. → _____
- ana bel-beit. → _____
- hayda b-’ashra dolar. → _____
- el-film bokra. → _____
- hayda khayyi. → _____

Ex. 2 Make it mine — / 8

Attach the right ending. ktab book · beit house · sayyara car · esm name · uda room

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

Ex. 4 Negate it — / 5

Make each sentence negative with ma or ma fi.

- ‘andi wa’t. → _____
- fi sekkar. → _____
- ‘andak sayyara. → _____
- ‘anda ekhwe. → _____
- fi mushkle. → _____

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.

شو اسمك؟

إنت منين؟

shu esmak? (f) *shu esmik?***enta mnein?** (f) *ente mnein?*

What's your name?

Where are you from?

A _____ B _____

A _____ B _____

كيفك؟

كم خي وأخت عندك؟

kifak? (f) *kifik?***kam khayy w ekht 'andak?** (f) *'andik*

How are you?

How many brothers and sisters do you have?

A _____ B _____

A _____ B _____

عندك سيّارة؟

وين ساكن؟

'andak sayyara? (f) *'andik***wein saken?** (f) *wein sakne?*

Do you have a car?

Where do you live?

A _____ B _____

A _____ B _____

بتعرف إنكليزي؟

شو بدك تشرب؟

bta 'ref inglizi? (f) *bta 'rfi***shu baddak teshrab?** (f) *shu baddik teshrabi?*

Do you speak English?

What do you want to drink?

A _____ B _____

A _____ B _____

Useful answers: 'andi khayy wahad w ekht wahde (one brother and one sister) · ana saken b-Berlin (I live in Berlin; f: sakne) · eh, shway (yes, a little) · baddi shay / 'ahwe / mayy (I'd like tea / coffee / water).

Ex. 5 Write about your partner

__ / 4

Four sentences about your partner, in the third person. Use *huwwe* / *hiyye* and the endings -o / -a. Then read them to the class or say them out loud three times.

1 · HIS / HER NAME: HUWWE ESMO ... / HIYYE ESMA ...

2 · WHERE FROM: HUWWE MEN ... / HIYYE MEN ...

3 · SIBLINGS OR CAR: 'ANDO ... / 'ANDA ... (OR MA 'ANDO / MA 'ANDA)

4 · WHERE HE / SHE LIVES: HUWWE SAKEN B ... / HIYYE SAKNE B ...

Bonus Ask about things in the room

Point at things and ask your partner: shu hayda? (what is this?) · hayda taba' min? (whose is this?) · fi ... hon? (is there ... here?). Very Lebanese: **taba'** + ending means "mine, yours": taba'i, taba'ak, taba'ik, taba'o. Three questions each, answers in full sentences: hayda ktab. · hayda taba'i. · eh, fi. / la', ma fi. For a feminine thing, use hayde.

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 hiyye · 4 hinne · 5 nehna · 6 ente · 7 huwwe · 8 entu

Ex. 2 1 ktabik · 2 beitna · 3 sayyarton · 4 esmo · 5 udti · 6 beita · 7 sayyartak · 8 esmkon

Ex. 3 1 enta mnein? (or mnein enta?) · 2 shu esmak? · 3 wein enta? · 4 'addesh hayda? · 5 emta el-film? · 6 min hayda?

Ex. 4 1 ma 'andi wa't. · 2 ma fi sekkar. · 3 ma 'andak sayyara. · 4 ma 'anda ekhwe. · 5 ma fi mushkle.

Ex. 5 Open answer. Model: hiyye esma Lina. · hiyye men almanya. · 'anda khayy wahad w ma 'anda sayyara. · hiyye sakne b-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 ("hiyye esma ..., 'anda ..."). That forces huwwe / hiyye and the -o / -a endings, which is the whole point of the sheet.
- Ex. 4 is the key exercise: ma 'andi and ma fi are the patterns students will use most. Students who learned Egyptian first will add -sh (ma 'andish); in Beirut that sounds Egyptian. Drill ma 'andi chorally.
- Common mistakes from textbooks: Fusha forms like 'indi, laysa 'indi, ayna, mada, ma huwa. Correct gently to 'andi, ma 'andi, wein, shu. Note 'anna (we have), not 'andna: the d disappears.
- taba' (taba'i, taba'ak ...) for "mine, yours" is everyday Lebanese and worth a few minutes in the Bonus task. Transliteration: ' = glottal stop (ق in Beirut), ' = 'ayn, kh as in Scottish "loch"; -ak and -ik are spelled the same in Arabic script.

NEXT WORKSHEET

Worksheet 4: The verbs you need and how to conjugate them in Lebanese, with 'am for "right now" and rah for the future. Free at yallahspeak.com/worksheets/lebanese-arabic.

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